



Dear Uncle John,

I just wanted to enclose a special note to you in this letter. There are just a few things I want to say that I didn't have the heart to say during my visit. It's not that I was afraid to, but we had such a good visit I didn't want there to be any tears between us, so I thought it might be better this way.

What a thrill it was for me to hear your voice calling to me to come in when I arrived at your home that Thursday night. I was so excited that you felt well enough to be up and about. It was actually a relief, because I just didn't know what to expect when I arrived. I know you are upset about losing so much weight, but you really did look good during my visit and thankfully the cancer had not been able to take away your spirit that I love so much. I think I came at just the right time for both of us. I don't really know what it is like for you, but with each passing week I just get more uncomfortable and grumpy due to all the changes my body is going through.

I know you know I love you, but I hope you realize how much. It's not just a feeling of affection towards someone you're related to, like I feel towards other relatives. It's much more than that. I still remember and can feel the thrill I would have when I was young knowing you would be at the house when I got home from school. I loved being with you and listening to you and dad tell so many stories of growing up and being in the service. I can honestly say I love you as much as I did dad, and I know for sure that I like and respect you much more than I did him. I mean no disrespect. I 'm just being honest. You know just as well what a pain he could be. I also know that you are not perfect, but from my experiences being with you and seeing how much your children and grandchildren adore you, I feel confident that you have been pretty great most of the time.

I get sad when I think about how far away I live from the majority of my Nichols kinfolks, especially for Abbey's sake. I just know how much I identify with that side of the family, and I want her to know about who and where she came from. It's hard since I



never knew Ma and Pa Nick, but listening to you and dad helped my see some family traits in myself. Since dad is gone, I was kind of counting on you to be her link to some of her roots that I don't know too much about. I'm sure if I just ask, my cousins can help me out, but it won't be the same.

Speaking of family, I am kind of jealous at the homecoming you will be having one day. You've got lots of folks to visit with that you haven't seen in awhile. If you can remember in all the excitement, tell Mike and Dad hello for me and get a big hug. I miss them terribly but I know that in the blink of an eye we will all be together again.

I hope this letter has not brought pain for you, for it has sure made me feel better to let you know what has been in my heart. I will be in touch with you again soon. I don't know what the Lord's timing will be, but hopefully very shortly I will be coming up again to show off our bundle of joy.

I LOVE YOU!!!

*Susan*