

THINKSDAY

Rise and Shine

May 14, 2026

“Rise and Shine.” — Dad

On May 16, 2026, Mom would be turning 97 years old. Dad, would be nearing 98. But they passed from this life in 2022 and 2010, respectfully, and so their anniversary dates will be marked with quiet remembrances, nostalgic texts from siblings, and prayers of thanksgiving. And wondering. What would they want for me now? I love them and miss them both, and with each passing year I come to respect more and more who they were, what they accomplished, the love they shared, and the lives they lived. They were good people: honorable, hardworking, loving, kind, sincere, dedicated, fun-loving, and oh so forgiving.

Dad was the hero for all of us, and each tried to follow in his footsteps of steadfast strength, good humor, genuine warmth, intellectual curiosity, and delight in the world. Mom was the rock, the center of the family. She was the heartbeat of the tribe, not by her demands, but by her outflowing of self-sacrifice, empathy, and dedication to family connections while promoting and protecting the unique needs, gifts, and individuality of each. If we could be together again for even a moment, what would they advise and encourage in me? What could they tell me about the times ahead?

What message would they want me to take back—to whom? I think they might say, “Tell the people of your life, tell all the people of the world: ‘I love you. I’ll be with you. I’m for you.’” What would those who someday will say goodbye to me want to know from me? What would I want them to know?

Happy Thinksdays