

# The Mitchell Family

“Family life is too intimate to be preserved by the spirit of justice. It can be sustained by a spirit of love which goes beyond justice.”  
-Reinhold Niebuhr

If there has ever been one truly undefeatable army, one eternal kingdom, one universal truth, it has always been family. The love which runs within a family is the strongest tie within mankind. This tie transcends countries, wars, famine, anger, and any other obstacle, which has ever been placed in its path. Only through this deep, unconditional love, can one truly understand awe. Awe which is necessary in the ability to look at a family as a whole, and accept it for what it is, and love it. Then, to dissect that family to separate individuals, and examine them, and come to the conclusion that you love each and every piece of that family unit as fully, equally, and unconditionally as you love the family as a whole.

As a family, the Mitchell's have enjoyed in general prosperity. This not to say that economically it has always been in the best place, or even that we all have always gotten along. Lord knows, this has not always been the case. However, the strength of this family comes from its understanding of each other. No matter how bad times may get, each and every person in this family can look at each and every other person and know that everything will be all right. The love within the family will never die, so everything will be all right. The loss of James Mitchell delt quite a blow to all of us. I know, not a day goes by that I don't miss him in my life. But, I also know that without the cohesiveness of this family I would have had a much more difficult time dealing with the loss. My mom has always told me, “Always treat your family with love and respect, because when your down on your luck, and you have no where else to turn, they will always be there. Family will always be there.”

## **The Parts:**

I would consider it and impossibility to explain each individual of my family, and explain how much I love each and every one of you, and what you do that is special to me. It's everyday life. The usual “wow, your getting big” and you sure turned out all right”, as well as the protection and guidance you all have offered me. Whether it be an ever ready to listen ear, or a quick to chastise mouth, I realize every word uttered and every action taken towards me in my life has been on my behalf. Thank you so much for your love. I hope some day, some how, to be able to repay you. For now, I offer only a single word to capture your personality as I see it, and a quote which I believe describes you.

**Grandpa:**

Do not stand at my grave and weep,

I am not there...I do not sleep.

I am the thousand winds that blow...

I am the diamond glints on snow...

I am the sunlight on ripened grain...

I am the gentle autumn rain.

When you waken in the morning's hush,

I am the swift uplifting rush

Of gentle birds in circling flight...

I am the soft star that shines at night.

Do not stand at my grave and cry-

I am not there...I do not die...

**Grandma:** Forever

"Smile at each other; smile at your wife, smile at your husband, smile at your children, smile at each other- it doesn't matter who it is- and that will help you to grow up in greater love for each other."

--*Mother Teresa*

**Maggie:** Compassion

There are two days in the week about which and upon which I never worry. Twocarefree days, kept sacredly free from fear and apprehension. One of these days is Yesterday. ... And the other ...is Tomorrow.

--*Robert Jones Burdette American clergyman and author (1844-1914)*

**Jimmy:** Crazy

The cure for boredom is curiosity. There is no cure for curiosity.

--*Ellen Parr*

**Tom:** Adventurous

People like you and I, though mortal of course like everyone else, do not grow old no matter how long we live...[We]never cease to stand like curious children before the great mystery into which we were born.

--*Albert Einstein in a letter to Otto Julius burger*

**Rob:** Successful

Success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has reached in life as by the obstacles, which he has overcome while trying to succeed.

--*Booker T. Washington*

**Teresa:** Spirited

Be more concerned with your character than with your reputation. Your character is what you really are while your reputation is merely what others think you are.

--*Dale Carnegie*

**Dennis:** Competitive

Leadership is a matter of having people look at you and gain confidence, seeing how you react. If you're in control, they're in control.

--*Tom Landry*

**Dolores:** Perseverance

To keep our faces toward change, and behave like free spirits in the presence of fate, is strength undefeatable.

--*Helen Keller*

**Rita:** Faith

When our eyes see our hands doing the work of our hearts, the circle of Creation is completed inside us, the doors of our souls fly open and love steps forth to heal everything in sight.

--*Michael Bridge*

**Mike:** Energy

Do not attempt to do a thing unless you are sure of yourself; but do not relinquish it simply because someone else is not sure of you.

--*Stewart E. White*

**Mary:** Teach

“The mediocre teacher tells, the good teacher explains, the superior teacher demonstrates, the great teacher inspires.”

--*William Arthur Ward*

**Barb:** Laughter

“The best blush to use is laughter: It put roses in your cheeks and in your soul.”

--*Linda Knight*

**Angie:** Passionate

Passion is universal humanity. Without it religion, history, romance and art would be useless.

--*Honore' de Balzac*

**Celie:** Strong

We shall draw from the heart of suffering itself the means of inspiration and survival.

--*Sir Winston Churchill*

**Joanie:** Fun

Mix a little foolishness with your serious plans: It's lovely to be silly at the right moment.

--*Horace*