

Ms. Wiesia Roguska

September 28, 1941 - September 16, 2017



A Eulogy

Delivered in Warsaw, Poland

Tuesday, September 26, 2017

William Favre Slater, III

Her American Son

Dear Wiesiek, Joanna, Mundek, Kasia, and Marisia, and Friends,

All of us know what a wonderful Wife, Mother, Sister, Daughter, and Friend Wiesia Roguska was. She still is. Wiesia's love, sweetness and wisdom live will live forever in all of our spirits.

I want to share with everyone what she meant to me as my Mother-in-Law, and as the one of the three most Extraordinary and Inspiring Human Beings I ever met. My Bride, Joanna and her wonderful Father, Wiesiek are the other two.

First, I believe that God providentially blessed me and brought Joanna and me together via the Internet. In December 2000 after a six month visit to explore Chicago and other parts of America, Joanna agreed to marry me, with her Parents Blessings, of course, and a few weeks later she brought me home for my first Polish Christmas with my new Family. We all loved and adored each other at first sight. I am so proud to tell you that my Polish Family, with their unconditional and unwavering love, support, and encouragement, blessed me, embraced me and loved me. They quickly became the family I always wanted, and the center of my life. As a result, I kept my promise to her parents and brought Joanna back home to Warsaw every Christmas since 2000. For us, the Roguski Home in Warsaw was and is the only place to be at Christmas.

So about Wiesia: I absolutely adored everything about her. I loved her charm, her wit, her gentle loving nature, her wisdom, her sense of humor, her intelligence, her style, her cooking, her hard work, her cooking, her creativity, and just how she made me feel like someone really important and part of the family.

Together, Wiesia's, Wiesiek's and Joanna's complete acceptance of me, with all my strengths, faults, weaknesses, and quirks, made me feel empowered and encouraged to make my greatest career and personal accomplishments. When I married Joanna, I had one expired computer certification and no graduate degrees. Today, I have 80 certifications and three graduate degrees. And in the evenings after work, I am an Adjunct Professor and I teach technical courses at two local universities. I have taught at the Illinois Institute of Technology for 10 years and at Triton College for two years. I am also a published author. None of these accomplishments would have been possible without the extraordinary love and constant support and encouragement of Wiesia, Wieseik, and Joanna. In addition, you can actually see the Wiesia's love and kindness reflected from me into the faces and lives of the hundreds of students I have taught since 2001.

So Wiesia changed the world in so many ways for the better, and most people do not even realize it.

During our 2016 Christmas Holiday, I had two interesting conversations with Wiesia, which Joanna happily translated for her Mother. Remember, when we are in Polksa, I am Slater and she is “Translator”.

The first I wanted to share with you:

I explained that Joanna and my Polish Parents were so very extraordinary in every way that I was certain I had married UP, WAY UP. It is an American expression to describe the act of marrying into a situation that is much better than the one you came from. She agreed and said, “Well, I feel the same. I married up when I married Wieseik. I was only a waitress and I married a wonderful, very smart man.”

Finally, here is the second story I want to share with you:

Realizing that we are all getting older and that Joanna’s parents were becoming increasingly more fragile with age, I explained that I was praying often that God would carve out a special section of Heaven that looks exactly like their cozy Warsaw Apartment Home where I spent 17 wonderful Christmas Holidays with my Polish Family, and that one by one we would all be reunited there. Wiesia’s response: “Nie! Nie! Nie! (No! No! No!). I want a MUCH bigger place in Heaven. You tell God that I want a Mansion!” I was amused but I quickly understood that in the next Life, Wiesia wanted and expected something much better.

In closing, I believe strongly that we were blessed beyond our wildest dreams to have such a magnificent woman in our lives. She was the closest thing to an Angelic Being that I ever met. Wiesia made us all better for having had her in our lives. It is my hope and prayer that God has provided that Mansion I prayed for and that Wiesia is up there right in that Heavenly Mansion, helping the Lord Jesus get it ready for us.

Rest in Peace, Wiesia. We will always love you with all our Hearts, and we never forget you, nor will we ever overcome the pain of your loss. But we have Faith in Christ Jesus that God through His Infinite Kindness, Love, Mercy, and Grace will reunite us for Eternity in our Home in Heaven.

Kocham Cie, Wiesia! Dobizenia!

