

TO MILDRED

**It has been a year
since you left us
And still, when we speak of you,
the tears come.
We were not ready
to lose you,
But then, we never would have been.
You so intricately weaved
the essence of yourself
Into the fabric of those around you
That we, to whom you freely
gave of yourself,
Can feel your presence
in our every day.
It is a blessed legacy
and warms our hearts
'Til we remember
you are gone,
And the tears come.**

**If only you could know
these tears are not only of sorrow,
But of gratitude that you so lived your life
that ours are all the richer.
Effortlessly you taught us,
Though you never dreamed
we were your disciples.
For you knew the way
to harmony and laughter,
And made it easy for us to follow.
We remember the joy,
The love, forbearance
and honesty
The example you unwittingly
set for us,
And how lucky we were
to have you
When the tears come.**

**Carol Leonard SeCoy
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