

I Wanna Spend More Time With You -- The Story

In 1995 Lloyd, my late husband, found a magical place to retire where he played golf every day -- its now called Laguna Woods Village. I still worked full time but when I arrived home, I walked the golf course until I found him; I would climb aboard our pretty red cart and life was good.



As the years went by, more often I found him on the veranda rather than on the golf course. I suggested that if he exercised more, he'd feel better; I didn't realize there was something seriously wrong with him.



Just before Valentine's Day, 2003, he complained of a sick stomach. I gave him home remedies that didn't help. I went to sleep with my hearing aids on as I was worried. I woke with a start and found him in the bathroom bleeding from both ends. Luckily, I didn't freeze and after my 911 call, the fire truck arrived within three minutes. The medics wouldn't let me stay in the room; but I listened at the door and heard them say

several times, "We're losing him!" But in fact they saved his life. At the hospital, we received some bleak news; he had liver disease; they advised he probably wouldn't last two years.

Lloyd was insured through my employment plan. The doctors originally mentioned he would need a liver transplant and prescribed an almost salt-free diet. We followed the diet carefully, but as the weeks passed, he grew worse and continually lost strength. I researched via the internet and discovered that if a transplant is needed many tests would be ordered, but no tests had been scheduled. I asked the doctor; he assured me, "Oh, Lloyd's not sick enough yet."

Lloyd wanted to move to Colorado so I would be near family and asked me to retire from my job. I didn't want to leave our beautiful home, but I also wanted to make him happy. Since I was nearing the end of a major project at work, within a few months, I retired. It was a good decision; we had more time to spend together. We put our home on the market and traveled to Colorado. My sister was excited and contacted realtors to show us some homes. We found a spacious split level home with a huge den. Lloyd really wanted us to live there; "Honey, the den will be your music room; let's go look at some grand pianos." Although, I wanted to stay in California, I really wanted a grand piano and music room; we purchased the home.

Back in California, we seriously considered offers on our condo. Lloyd wasn't able to help much as we began to pack. His health was deteriorating and still the doctors hadn't ordered any of the tests required to begin the transplant evaluation. We knew that when Lloyd's mom and dad were alive, they had very good medical care via their Medicare plan. Since Lloyd was approaching his 65th birthday, we decided to switch plans as soon as he became eligible.

Fortunately, the sale of the condo had not yet finalized when Lloyd turned 65 and had his first appointment with his new doctor. The doctor immediately ordered the tests required to start the evaluation process to determine Lloyd's eligibility for a liver transplant. He also advised, "Colorado is the worse place you could possibly live with your condition."

With the excellent care he was receiving, we knew we had to stay in California. My sister helped rent our Colorado home. We researched the odds of a match being found for his transplant and while we were hopeful, we knew the odds were against us.

August 16, 2005, we received the call of a lifetime -- there was a matching liver for Lloyd. It was so exciting and so frightening. As he went into surgery, we kissed, perhaps for the last time. Surrounded by family, I waited for five long hours before the surgeon approached us with good news -- the surgery was successful and Lloyd was in recovery. Less than 24 hours later, he became famous -- he made it out of ICU in record time. Family members happily visited in pairs. It was a thrilling day and the day I

knew that the wish expressed in a song I wrote and sang to Lloyd, "I Wanna Spend More Time With You," had come true. It was a very precious and wonderful slice of time. I eventually lost Lloyd due to complications.

David was one of Lloyd's friends; some time later he and I found each other. August 16, 2008 marked another important day in my life -- the day I married David; now I sing my song to him.



I Wanna Spend More Time With You -- The Song

I wanna spend more time with you and you just know my words are true
You're a treasure that I hold dear
I love each day I spend with you; to hold your hand is special, too
I love so much just being with you here

You dear beside me spells perfection to me
Sharing precious time each day, I want to spend my life this way
I wanna spend more time with you.

I wanna spend more time with you and if you wonder why that's true
Just remember fun times each day
You keep me happy, I'm not blue; I really like life from our view
You make me laugh and smile most ev'ry day.

You dear beside me spells perfection to me
Sharing precious time each day; I want to spend my life this way
I wanna spend more time with you.

You dear beside me spells perfection to me
Sharing precious time each day; I want to spend my life this way
I wanna spend more time with you.
I wanna spend more time with you -- more time with you.