

## A Little Light: Monday Musings with Mary Sue



Welcome to the last week of September!

Uncle Tommy was our favorite Uncle. He will be missed. Two weeks ago my husband Tim's Uncle Tommy (nickname Tink) died from complications due to Covid-19. He went fast, too fast. He was playing golf one week and two weeks later he was gone. His passing led to many prodigious conversations about his life; he was an all around great guy! It also sparked a conversation regarding the history of our favorite (and less favorite) uncles. We laughed so hard telling stories about our uncles and what an impact they had on our lives.

I realized, and not for the first time, what a wonderful uncle my husband has been, and continues to be, to our plethora of nieces and nephews. Tim has earned the reputation for being patient, calm, funny, super smart, thoughtful, quiet (at least quieter than his wife) and without fail, good natured. In fact, each year one of our beloved nieces sends him a father's day card. A beautiful story.....

Several years ago, our niece, my brother's oldest daughter, was having a very hard time at home and school. She was 16 years old and lost. She ran away from her southern home and my brother and his wife were frightened and confused. When our niece was asked what she felt might help she replied, "I would like to live with Aunt Mary Sue and Uncle Tim." Now, Jeremy, our son, was 3 years old, Tim was a professor at UW-Whitewater and I was the principal at a local school. We knew nothing about teenagers and when my brother called to ask if this was at all possible, my dear husband said, without question, "Sure. We'll learn along the way." Our dear niece blossomed in Wisconsin. She laughed, made friends, reunited emotionally with her parents, and most importantly, found her light! She loved to garden with Tim and his lighthearted spirit, patience, and acceptance helped her heal. She is doing great now, a college graduate, and living a joyful life in California. She once said to me, "Uncle Tim takes being a great uncle to a new level-he's a great human." Cheers to uncles everywhere- celebrate them! Make sure to share a story or two with your children about a beloved uncle.

**FACT:** 15 Reasons we Love Uncles: [https://www.huffingtonpost.ca/amy-gibson/15-reasons-why-uncles-rock\\_b\\_9039852.html](https://www.huffingtonpost.ca/amy-gibson/15-reasons-why-uncles-rock_b_9039852.html)

Have a great week!

*Mary Sue*

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