

## Generations

# Honoring Mom on her very special day

It's Mother's Day, the one day of the year when we can all pay homage to our mothers in unique ways.

What do mothers want most on this day of all days? How about flowers? A survey by the National Retail Federation reports that Mother's Day accounts for one-fourth of the floral purchases made for holidays, one-third (35 percent) of adults bought flowers or plants as gifts for Mother's Day in 2015, and 66 percent will celebrate Mother's Day by buying their mothers flowers in 2016, spending an estimated \$2.4 billion.

Sure, flowers are beautiful, but as a mother for over 43 years with her share of roses, carnations and daffodils, what I truly look forward to are calls or visits from my kids or a simple handwritten note on a Hallmark card. I keep so many cards that I now need to store

them in a file cabinet, but every once in a while, I



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take time to read the old ones when the kids were young and their lives were taking shape.

While florists have finished preparing for the riptide of orders and Fed Ex and UPS deliverymen are taking a double dose of vitamins this weekend, there are other ways to honor Mom, if not today, perhaps next year or for another occasion.

No. 1, I thought, was to make a scrapbook for Mom filled with family photos, handwritten notes and quotes from you that you might have forgotten to say when the picture was taken. It's too late for this Mother's Day, but start it now for next

Mother's Day or begin one for her birthday. She'll probably save it for you to pass down to your children.

For the electronically gifted, in this day of easily capturing videos on phones, it might be a good idea to take a selfie and add your own personal message for Mom. She'll love it, especially if you're far away and can't personally visit. For those who can Skype, you've hit a home run!

An email is nice, or a post on Facebook, but mothers are sentimental souls, so a handwritten note or card would be even better. Is there a poetic bone in your body? Poetry is not my forte, but for those who can put a rhyme together, compose a poem for Mom, and I promise that she will treasure it forever.

If she loves roses, and who doesn't, shops will sell you a single rose and

that's just fine to tell your mother you love her. Think about other flowers that perhaps only your mother loves. My mother loved peonies, not that easy to find, and these once-a-year bloomers are in my garden as a tribute to her. They usually bloom right about now, but unfortunately, I have a feeling the rabbits share my mother's love for peonies because most of the coveted buds were eaten away before they were in full bloom.

For those who have the gift of design, give Mom an arrangement of silk flowers that she can keep forever. A ceramic piece that you can do yourself would also be welcome, or for those who have the gift of creating beauty on a canvas, paint some flowers that she can enjoy forever.

Perhaps the greatest gift you can give Mom is your time. So often, we get

involved with our busy world and forget how we got here in the first place. Fifteen years ago, my mother called me on a Sunday afternoon and asked what I was doing. I was probably cleaning the house or busy with some other weekend project, but I know she listened patiently as I rambled on about trivial matters. She said she was feeling a bit tired and we ended our call with an "I love you" like always. I didn't think any more about it, but on Monday she had a stroke, and by Wednesday she had passed away.

I should have stopped what I was doing, gotten in the car and made a trip to see her.

So that is what I leave to all reading this column today. Make a visit, and if you can't, send a card, make a call, video, or Skype. But do it today.

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