

## At the end of a lifetime...

by Steve Long (5/27/09)

When my life has reached completion  
it's been great to know and meet ya'

don't be feeling sad for me  
for a minute, a day, or a lifetime, see

People are what life's all about  
material goods mean nothing then

when death finally comes knocking for you  
the legacy I hope to leave has nothing to do with things

Members of our family (and friends)  
a life filled with giving is so important

hopefully see what their folks and I know  
for others – and for us – it is so!

Altruistic egoism can thrive  
Random acts of kindness flowing

"Pay it forward" be a goal  
Make a difference in our mortal souls

Smile at others, give a wave now  
spread the kindness like a rumor

do you know them? what's it do?  
it'll grow in countless positive ways, tried and true!

Be kind, be kind, be kind, be kind  
show the love that Jesus shared

find another hurting, help her  
help the helpless, give them a hand up (not handout)

Cancer is a quiet killer  
we never know when it will surface

taking friends and family too  
make an example of even you

Do you try to kill the cancer  
Quality of life will be my guidance

Put the poison in your body  
In such situations clearly

For to everything there is a season  
For their purpose to be ending

Every person has a time  
Just a hiccough, not truly over

For the examples of a lifetime  
Is what lasts beyond the breaths

Kindness, loving, caring friend  
Of those whose final rest has won

Make the time to be with family  
Observe the sparrow, God's eye is on it

How much is enough is smaller than you think  
Does it plan for retirement?

Not that planning's unimportant  
It's the doing, not the saying or things

Just remember when all's said and done  
That makes a lasting impression

My blessings are indeed abundant  
Special times with Kim, boys and all four  
DDD with younger kids - Is one that we've begun to do

With our family, o'er the years  
Cline reunions, Long family gatherings too

Death may linger or end very fast  
Not to worry about such things

Could be known, or may just happen  
What we do with the dash\*\*\* is what matters!

Know "I love you" were not just my words,  
will be with you throughout the ages

Heart's expression, Spirit's said  
On this earth, and times ahead!

\*\*\* reference to poem by Linda Ellis about "the dash" (i.e., Steve Long, 2/14/59 – \_\_\_\_\_)