

## **My Life Partner**

**By Gerald Blackburn**

She walked right over to my car and into my heart. Then she said, Hi I'm Kathy can I ride with you. That was the beginning of a journey that we are still on. We spent that weekend in the San Bernardino Mountains with our Catholic Youth Organization and discovered a connection that has lasted 57 years.

Katherine has a gift of presence about her that makes you feel like you have known her all your life. Her smile engages you then her soul lights up in your eyes. I knew I had to be with her for the rest of my life she was my soulmate. Both our families traditions would require the usual social and religious protocols, but they were embraced as the easy price for an eternity of bliss. We had a quick ten month courtship to the big question and decision.

In the fall of 1963, I asked her to marry me and she said, "YES". This was the day that my world and life began. Finding and meeting a soulmate is an incredible experience but when that soul is also someone who is willing to become your partner for life is even more rare. Kathy and I began to immediately plan for the future and our family. The soonest we could start this newest part of journey would be in February of 1964, February 8<sup>th</sup> would be that magic day, when Katherine and Gerald would become one as husband and wife.

Each and every moment with her is bliss. I could feel her in the room or even if she was only nearby. The sound of her voice was a reassurance that my world was complete. Making a family with her was a magical experience. The challenge of being a parent is huge but when you have a partner like Kathy to share it with it is so enjoyable and rewarding. I am so glad she chose me to be her partner to build our beautiful family.

To be continued.....

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