

Dear Bill,

It was still dark when we left our homes this morning to head over to the Kona Village Beach. The sun was rising to illuminate the snow on Mauna Kea as we headed out into the ocean to celebrate the life of precious Pattie, whom we all loved and admired so very much. Kahu Billy led a pule (chant) and a prayer, and various members of our little Hualalai community shared remembrances of Pattie and sent our thoughts and love and sympathy to you and your family.

We carried with us baskets of loose plumeria blossoms (better for the marine life than attached lei) from the local farm of one of our employees. It was the most beautiful morning in well over a week, with soft tradewinds and gentle seas. Just as we reached the point where we would strew our flowers and wish "a hui hou" the very first whale of the season breached just off our bow--it was extraordinary! And as the flowers floated out to sea, their wake was broken by hundreds of cavorting dolphins, jumping and spinning and flipping and generally celebrating the passage of this very special soul from this dimension.

They stayed with us, literally alongside the boat on both sides, wanting to be close to us and letting us swim along with them. It was absolutely magical...

So as you were all gathering in San Francisco, we were with you in spirit and here in this beautiful place that means so much to you and Pattie and your family. We will hope to see you all here together soon so that we may hug you and support you and let you know how blessed we feel just to have known this extraordinary woman.

What a battle she fought, and what strength and courage and grace she always demonstrated. She was a warrior and a heroine and a role model, and we are all so fortunate to have known her.

I think of part of a poem I always remember as being of such comfort to me in difficult times, for it is never right to lose a loved one or a dear friend.

"and God I thank, whose song was yours, that once before its end,
you walked the path with me a space and called me friend."

We love you, Bill, and we are holding all of you in our hearts and in our prayers.

Aloha nui loa,

Kate & Andy