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“Not for lack of trying.”

Jackie Wilson Goddard, Lenora, KS



This photo was taken at Christmas, 1965 and is the face of a 28-year-old mother of four, the youngest just months old. At the time, she did not know the brief period of blindness in one eye when she was 16 was her first symptom of multiple sclerosis or the second symptom was the limp she began experiencing three years earlier. In fact, she had never heard of multiple sclerosis. Less than a year later she would know what it was and she would be given a very bleak prognosis: eventual paralysis. What went through her mind when the neurologist told her the diagnosis? She never said. She had always claimed she was going to live to be 100. When she told her father about the disease, he said, “Well, Daisy Ann, it doesn’t look like you’ll live to be 100.” I am positive fire flew from her eyes when she informed him “Maybe not, but it won’t be for the lack of trying!” She never stopped trying. On May 31, 2006, she said, “I’m still going to live to be 100.” After all, it was only 30 years, 5 months and 21 days away. She had a stroke the following day and passed away

on June 3rd. While I miss her every day, I wouldn't wish her back here to be trapped inside a body that had ceased to do any of her bidding 20 years ago. However, on November 21, 2036 I will celebrate not only Mom's 100th birthday but also her 30 years, 5 months and 21 days of freedom from that body.