

"The House That Built Me"

Friday, July 15, 2016

I had the privilege of helping Dave & Sandy find their new home in Florida. They previously had an extended vacation and stayed at Vilano Beach. After getting the St. Augustine sand in their toes, they decided Florida should be their new home! After living in the same home in Ohio for over 30 years, they made the big decision to move from the only address they had together since getting married.

On the last night in their home, they were able to have their daughter and son help load the final truck on moving day. The four of them decided they had not been together as just a foursome in many years. They were able to say goodbye to the home that had provided so many wonderful memories over the years! That night there was much laughter and many tears shed as they recalled the moments of their lives!

I asked them to take a picture for me. Their daughter is one of our closest friends and I wanted to see their faces on this night! It made me realize what a privilege we have as Realtors to share in this process. And what a great chance they had to say goodbye to their home on their own terms!



Many of us are forced to deal with the loss of loved ones and many homes are sold out of necessity. I had the opportunity to spend a lot of time in my childhood home after my mother passed quickly. After her death, my family spent many hours restoring our home that was built in the early 1900's. We discovered original wood flooring that had long been covered with carpeting. I spent many hours

refinishing and staining beautiful wood stairs leading to the upstairs of the house that built me. I also spent some time just sitting in my old bedroom, turning on the attic fan and listening for the trains on South Main Street like I did in grade school.

I know my mom would have loved to see it when it was completed. The neighbor family that bought the home had loved it for years and was so happy to make it their own. We didn't get to say goodbye together in person, but I know my mother was with me when I closed the door for the last time!

The photo of Dave & Sandy and their kids made me think of the Miranda Lambert song ...

I know they say, you can't go home again,

Well, I just had to come back one last time.

And Ma'am, I know, you don't know me from Adam,

But these hand prints on the front steps are mine.

Up those stairs, in that little back bedroom,

Is where I did my homework and I learned to play guitar.

And I bet you didn't know under that live oak,

My favorite dog is buried in the yard

Mama cut out pictures of houses for years

From "Better Homes and Garden" magazine.

Plans were drawn and concrete poured

And nail by nail and board by board

Daddy gave life to mama's dream.

If I could just come in, I swear I'll leave,

Won't take nothing but a memory

From the house that built me.

(Miranda Lambert - The House That Built Me Lyrics)