

Standing here looking out at all of you I know what Ilene would have said, she would have turned to Wayne and whispered, "I hope you ordered enough food for the Shiva."

Ilene had a wonderful sense of humor and a great love of life. She was real and unpretentious.

The last several years of Ilene's life were a trial, she met that trial with courage and bravery. She had true grit, the John Wayne type, but packaged within a five foot frame.

In the end, it was her heart that gave out gently.

And Ilene was all heart. She wore her heart on her sleeve, all the time, she was emotional and she was kind.

She loved her children intensely, almost to a fault. They could do no wrong.

The last ten years were hard, and it's difficult to not have those images of Ilene during those difficult times lodged in our heads.

But I know Ilene would like to be remembered for her whole life:

Let's honor her by:

Remembering her for her joy
For her expansive and magnanimous heart
For her impeccable style
Her strength and bravery

And when we remember her that way, we can't help but to feel blessed by having been touched by such a wonderful, loving soul.