



“Mother’s example of a loving spouse is what I strive for in my life.”



Above, 1953-54—Susan being held by her mother, Mina (Bindseil) Hartley

chapter 6.7

SUSAN LAURA HARTLEY

Lawrence & Mina’s sixth-born (b. 1952)

Written by Susan (Hartley) Malo

My name is Susan Laura (Hartley) Malo and I’m the sixth child of William Lawrence Hartley and Mina Paulina (Bindseil) Hartley. I was the first of Lawrence and Mina’s children to be born in Wichita, KS. Mina and Lawrence lived in and around Wichita for the rest of their lives.

My earliest memory was of the house in which we lived in Andover, KS, then one on Seneca Street in Wichita, then two others and the last one in Mulvane. We lived in Mulvane from my sixth grade through twelfth grade of school and through graduation from business school. My younger brothers and sister lived in Mulvane until they moved away from home.

Growing up with five older brothers (Michael, Edward, Dayton, Virgil and Johnny) made me quite a tomboy. I’m sure my older brothers wished I didn’t always want to do what they were doing! But I did have to help mom when the younger children came (Stephen, Richard and Barbara). I remember rocking some of them to sleep.

I guess because of the age differences (17 years between Michael and Barbara) we were divided into two generations. I have more memories of my older brothers because I left Kansas when Barbara was 10. I feel my brothers and sister are the best siblings a person could ask for. They are all very nice people with great family values, and I feel all have been lucky to marry people with the same great values. Our parents did a great job, and were they still alive I feel they would be so proud!

Our mother grew up near Fredericksburg, Texas, in a German-speaking community. She went to California when she was 18 to stay with her older sister and get a job. She met our father there. Our mom was a very hard worker; and though she never had a job outside our home, she certainly had a more than full-time job raising nine of us. She and dad had a large garden every year, and mom would can and freeze more than enough to last the winter. Plus she always had enough to give to family and friends.

None of her children were exempt from gardening, can-

ning and freezing duty; and as the older daughter, I was expected to be there for it all. I guess that is why I still love growing vegetables, and I have even canned a few since I left home. We also had dairy cows occasionally or got milk from a local friend who had dairy cows, so Mom made butter too.

I grew up on the old-fashioned things in life when that generation (1960-1970) was moving away from those types of things.

Mom even wore dresses most of the time when I still lived at home. I also remember mom loved her afternoon soaps (not so old fashioned!), and she liked to read (at least after the first round of children started leaving home).

My mother spoke German when she was growing up in Texas and still spoke German when she visited her family. Even though she tried a few times to teach me, I never learned her first language. I guess that is one regret I will always have. I should have honored her by learning German.

I know that my mother was always there for me when I needed her, and I felt and still feel she was one of the best mothers a person could have. We won't count a couple of my teenage years!

Mother's example of a loving spouse is what I strive for in my life. One of my overall impressions of my mother was that she was a happy person who enjoyed her family and her life. My mother died from leukemia when I was 38.

Our dad was an equally hard worker; I remember a time when he had three jobs. He was working for Cessna, which he did most of his time in Kansas; he had an early-morning job helping a dairy farmer milk the cows; he also was helping a welding shop with welding jobs. Dad knew how to do lots of things--a real handy man for a friend or relative. I remember him helping out people all the time. The old saying "He would give the shirt off his back" applied to him.

One of my favorite memories of dad was when he would



Susan's Life in a Nutshell

- Born Wichita KS 1952
- Grew up in Wichita area.
- Graduated Mulvane KS High School
- Met spouse, Roger, at McConnell AFB in Wichita.
- Lived various places during spouse's Air Force Career.
- Two sons: Scott and Randy.
- Currently Operations Manager for golf course at Eglin AFB
- Lives in Niceville FL



Susan's 1970 high school graduation picture



Above, Susan & Roger on their wedding day

play baseball with us. Sometimes when we went to the park for family picnics, Uncle Eldon and all our cousins played baseball too. My mother even played with us sometimes, and she was pretty good for a girl! We heard that a lot in a family of seven boys.

Dad also loved going to auctions. There was a time when we lived a few blocks from an auction house; and we would get a new horse what felt like every month, and then it would be auctioned off later for more money. I think my father often tamed them so they would be more attractive to buyers. I know a few times my older brothers and I would try to ride them. I remember once one of our new horses took me to a newly plowed field and rolled over to get me off. I was six or seven at the time. I know my brothers have even funnier stories.

My dad was a quiet person to me, but I always felt he was a nice man and a great father. I don't think he felt he had a lot to talk about with a daughter, but he would always ask me about my car to see if I needed any help maintaining it. I always thought that was so sweet and his way of letting me know he loved me. As with mom, I felt like my dad was always there for me if I needed him--a great feeling for a child or grownup to have. My father died when I was 30.

I have memories of fun times with our extended Hartley cousins. We used to spend Sundays together and we often played Red Rover, tag, and baseball. Beverly Sue was called "Sue" and I know some of the cousins called her Big Sue and me Little Sue because I was younger.

I never liked being called Sue, but when you are younger, you are just glad your older cousins remember who you are. Besides, what can be worse than being called "Sissy." Dad called me Sis for short. I think one of the younger brothers couldn't say Susan for a while and it just caught on for a long time.

Grandma Hartley (we called her Hartley even though most people knew her by her second married name, Breedlove) used to visit us and one time she visited when we lived in Mulvane. She went out in the field and pulled some weeds and cooked them. Now even though we were a farming family, I wasn't sure I wanted to eat something that looked like a weed. Grandma called it poke greens. Mom made us try it. Now it's probably a fashionable thing to eat, but I'm sure it's not called poke greens. I remember Grandma Hart-



Above, Malos Visiting Grandma Mintia Hartley in 1980 (L-R) Roger, Randy, Grandma, Susan & Scott

ley calling our mom “Meanie” instead of Mina. I don’t think she thought Mom was mean, just think that was Grandma’s way of talking. I still have a few old fashioned words in my vocabulary too!

Leaving Home and Meeting Roger

I moved away from home after I finished business school and found a job. After growing up with five older brothers, two younger brothers and a younger sister, I soon got lonely and moved back home. By that time I was working on McConnell Air Force Base in their Credit Union. I met Roger Leo Malo who was stationed with the Air Force at McConnell. Roger was born and raised in Cumberland, Rhode Island.

Roger and I met at a bowling alley, but I think my working on the Base helped us get to know each other better. We were married a few months after we met. We moved to Tucson, Arizona to Davis-Monthan Air Force Base about two months after we married. Both our sons, Scott Lee Malo and Randy Paul Malo, were born in Tucson.

We were in Tucson for four years before moving to McGuire AFB in New Jersey for two years. After that it was Keflavik, Iceland, Naval Air Station for two years; Pensacola Florida at the Pensacola Naval Air Station or Corey Field for two years; and Goldsboro, North Carolina, at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base for one year. Next, Roger became an Air Force recruiter for two years in Middletown, Rhode Island, and we lived in Newport for two years. Last but not least, we moved to Bedford, Massachusetts to Hansom AFB for eight years. Our sons are officially “Air Force Brats.”

Roger had a total of 22 years of service in the Air Force. I am now going on 20 years working for the Eglin Air Force Base Golf Course as the operations supervisor (accounting, office manager, etc.). Eglin is located in the panhandle of Florida, and we live in nearby Niceville, Florida.

Prior to working at Eglin, I had worked in Newport at the Naval Exchange (like a department store on base) and then



Above, Susan (holding Randy) & Roger (holding Scott)—1974

Below, Susan’s parents, Lawrence (holding Randy) & Mina, (holding Scott).





Susan, Roger and the Scott & Randy in Iceland—1978



Malo Boys visiting Grandma Mina Hartley—1990

At right, Roger, Susan, Randy, and Scott

for eight years as a military telephone system operator for the Boston area system. I worked a few years for a ReMax Realty agency in Destin, Florida, before my current job at the golf course where I hope to retire from in a few years.

I had a short stint working for an answering service, for a computer accessory manufacturer, and a few tax seasons helping a tax accountant from January through April. I enjoy gardening, reading, and I have tried a lot of hobbies out over the years (Macramé, knitting, crocheting, ceramics, cake decorating, sewing).

Roger spent most of his 22 years in the service working in administration which in the Air Force covers a lot a territory. He worked many of his first years in the orderly rooms with the commanders and first sergeants. He was an Air Force recruiter for two years and that was his most difficult job in the Air Force, but he loved working with the young people. His last eight years with the Air Force he worked in the Air Force Geophysics Lab as the NCOIC (Non-commissioned Officer in Charge) of the lab. He had many people working for him, and we still keep in touch with a lot of them.

Since Roger retired from the Air Force he has worked in hardware at two different stores (something he also did as a teenager). Then he got his job with Surplus Warehouse (EC Barton) and moved up to manager a year later. He has been there ten years and will retire in 2015. Roger is a very handy man, to include woodworking, repairing things, building, landscaping and a real “Jack of all trades.” Scott and Randy were both born when we were in Arizona. They came into our lives as total blessings and are still the greatest things we have accomplished. They have grown to fine young men that any parent would be proud of. Scott graduated from the University of Central Florida and Randy from Embry Riddle University. They both have degrees relating to computers, and with their contin-



ued assistance have helped Roger and me keep up with current technology (an ongoing endeavor!). Because of our continual moves, we became a very close-knit family.

Even though Roger and I live in Niceville, Florida; Scott lives in Lafayette, Louisiana, and Randy in Shelton, Connecticut. We still get together twice a year and stay in contact often.

Where Are The Children?

Scott Lee Malo was born on December 5, 1972, in Tucson, AZ. He was always a happy, loving child with a great heart. He had asthma and other illnesses as a child but it never kept him from his sports, baseball being his favorite. He played many years of baseball from tee-ball all the way to high school baseball. He taught himself to play the guitar.

Scott had numerous jobs in his childhood, starting with scorekeeping for the military's intermural sports like softball, basketball, volleyball, and flag football. Then he moved to bagging groceries at the Commissary (the supermarket on Air Force bases). He did this all the way through high school and eventually became an assistant head bagger.

In high school Scott participated in the Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (JROTC). He was part of the Drill Team all four years. In his sophomore year, Scott was made the Drill Team Commander. In 1991, Scott graduated from Bedford (MA) High School in Bedford, MA. After graduation he worked at the local Tower Records store in Burlington, MA.

When his parents moved to Niceville, Florida, over 20 years ago, Scott moved with them; he worked at Camelot Music and eventually became a Camelot store manager in Gadsden, AL. In 2002, Scott graduated from the University of Central Florida in Orlando, FL with a Bachelor of Arts in Digital Media. Related to his college training, Scott began working at a research lab where he helped to design cutting edge augmented reality experiences as possible prototypes for the U.S. Army soldier training.

When the research lab job ended due to lack of funding, Scott went to work for Electronic Arts Tiburon in Orlando where he worked on three popular games: *Superman Returns: the Video Game* and *Tiger Woods PGA Tour 2008* and *2009*. After finishing up his time at EA, Scott moved to Lafay-



Susan & Roger —1988



Above, 2004—Scott Malo on the cover of Kiplinger's Magazine



Above, 1991—Scott Malo in his JROTC uniform from high school

ette, LA to work at a state government technology center called Louisiana Immersive Technologies Enterprise (LITE).

After leaving LITE, Scott started his greatest adventure yet in January 2013. He started his own animation studio called *Zoom Digital*, where he still works today.

Randy Paul Malo was born on February 23, 1974, in Tucson, AZ. He was always a happy, energetic child with an active imagination. He was always using that imagination to create fun things to do (e.g., games, forts, wood and art projects).

Randy started working at a young age at the Air Force Base Outdoor Recreation store helping to rent outdoor gear. He also had a job with scorekeeping for the military's intramural sports like softball, basketball, volleyball, and flag football. He moved to bagging groceries at the Commissary. He did this all the way through high school with his big brother.

In high school Randy excelled at CAD (Computer Aided Drafting). He graduated high school in 1993 from Shawshen Valley Technical High School, Billerica, MA, and was accepted to Embry Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach, FL. Randy moved to Niceville, FL with the family in 1993, worked for Firestone Tires for the summer, then went off to college in the fall. He came home each summer and worked at auto repair shops.

Randy graduated in 1997 from Embry Riddle with a Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science. After graduation, he accepted a job with Sikorsky Aircraft in Shelton CT. He started work there on the Army's Comanche Helicopter and then with the Blackhawk helicopters. Randy has been with Sikorsky 17 years.



At left, 1993—Randy Malo, in the middle, on his high school graduation day with his parents, Susan (Hartley) & Roger Malo



At left, Roger & Susan Malo at their 25th Wedding Anniversary in July 1998 with Randy (on left) and Scott



At right, 1972—Lawrence & Mina Hartley at the wedding of their daughter, Susan (Hartley) and Roger Malo



At left, 2012—Randy, Roger, Susan and Scott Malo