

I MAY KEEP HIS STUFF UNTIL I DIE

A widow's journey

Mary Lee's 73-year-old husband Neville died from small cell lung cancer in 2013

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Do what feels right, or just wait

My husband had a few guns and a watch from his high school graduation that he designated to his grandsons. He left everything else for me to decide.

There were a few items he wanted certain people to have but instructed me to give the rest to whomever I wanted. I told him I would do this but may not distribute the items until after I die. He was happy I wanted to keep some of his things. I am in the process of taking photos for a file folder as to who is to receive what.

At Christmas I gave one of Neville's daughters his mother's nativity set. We had put it on display every year but I no longer put out Christmas décor, and knew this would mean a lot to this daughter. She has kept in contact with me and checks on me. Every time Neville went into the hospital, he asked me if she knew. I would call and let her know, and she came immediately.

I have not been able to part with much of anything. After five years, I finally put Neville's clothes in boxes which still sit in the closet where his clothes hung. I used to go in there and ask

Neville what I should wear. He is real to me in the closet. I know there are homeless people who could use Neville's clothes, but not yet.



I would recommend to other widows to do what feels right to them. Some can't part with items and others can't stand to see them around all the time. I would say to just take your time. Some people have given away all their spouses things and then wish they had some of them back.

Just wait.