

Tribute to my Teacher Award



Teacher's - Tessa Medinger and Kathy Lombardi

Essay written by 11 year old Abigail Coats

My essay is not only about one extraordinary dance teacher, you might say two. I dance at Xtreme Dance in Dubuque Iowa. I have danced there almost all of my life, well since I was almost 3 years old. I started the year my wonderful dance teacher Tessa opened her own studio. Ever since I can remember not only has Tessa been my teacher, she has also has been someone I wanted to "grow up to be". Not only has Tessa been there for me but her mom Kathy has been there too. Kathy is the dance studios "dance mom" and our biggest supporter. She always has a smile on her face and she watches all of us compete and cheers for us all as if we were her own daughter. They both are always there to give us a hug and sometimes a pep talk when we need it. When you see Tessa you see Kathy.

Tessa has been there for me through some tough times in my life, like when my mom and dad got a divorce. She always has a hug to make it all better and being there to celebrate so many great times in our lives as well. Tessa has 2 children but really she has about 100. She treats us all like her own, in our own special way and we love her for that.

Kathy has always been Tessa's biggest supporter, just as Tessa has been ours. This year things have changed so much at our dance studio. A few months ago Kathy was diagnosed with stage 4 colon cancer and it has spread to her liver. A lot of us have known someone who has been a victim of cancer, but this is our biggest fan, our dance mom, and our dance teacher's mom. So as our dance teacher, Tessa is not only giving us 100% of herself all day at the studio, she is very busy being a daughter to her sick mom, who is her biggest fan.

Behind all of Tessa's tears and heartache there is still a need for her to carry on, for us to be the best we can be, and for her to be the best she can be. So this year we don't dance just for ourselves or our team, we are dancing for Kathy. We believe that anything is possible and dance teachers and dance moms are extra special people who see the extra special in all of us, even when we sometimes don't see it in ourselves. So once again when I grow up I want to be just like Tessa Medinger or her mom Kathy who made Tessa who she is today!

Abigail Coats