

WHAT IS A SENIOR CITIZEN?

A senior person is life-long learning bound in a well-worn cover, shining with the patina of being handled through years of love by those who were entranced by his or her treasure of stories crafted through decades of living. The senior in the family is like a priceless book, filled with words, songs, mysteries, magical tales, sad and joyous memories, hints of transgressions, long ago remediated and forgiven.

The senior in our lives is a collection, an anthology of adventures, an Odyssey of travel through bounty, depression, recession, wars, victories, the rescue of compatriots, desperate to hold families or groups together to circumvent failure and achieve salvation in preparation of new tomorrows.

A senior person is the genealogist who preserves the lines of history, defines the ancestry of the family, repeats the lore that describes the journeys of the ancients who faced the obstacles of the unknown, only to link the DNA that fills our family's homes in 2008. The journeys not only tell the tales of the past but define the courage, humility, pride and opposition to danger expressed by the ancestors. They gave the gift of life that permits us to sit in a warm room today, eagerly embracing the progeny who come to visit.

We who are seniors know that the great volume is never complete. We tell our tales until the last moments of life, listened to by the next generation who hear the words, consumed by the young, of chapters that spell themselves in their hearts and minds. Seniors, in turn, hear the adventures of the young knowing full well that they are writing the pages of tomorrow..

Seniors are the curators of Family Encyclopedias, cherished books that adorn the honored places in each and every home. Their cautions create a catechism for life, guidelines of family ethics born from the gold-edged pages of having lived, learned, lost and loved again. Discover the seniors in your lives. They have volumes to tell you. Open a page every day.

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