

# Jimmy Stewart's Ode to Beau Brings Tears to Many an Eye

By Abigail Van Buren

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**DEAR ABBY:** Many years ago, on the Johnny Carson show, Jimmy Stewart read a poem he had written about his dog. It was so beautiful, it brought tears to my eyes. I tried in vain to get a copy of it, and you are my last resort. I am 93 and living in a nursing home. Please print that poem, Abby. I'd sign my name, but my family would think I've lost my marbles. (Smile.)

GRANDMA

**DEAR GRANDMA:** The beautiful poem is titled "Beau" — and here it is:

"BEAU" by Jimmy Stewart  
 He never came to see me when I would call —  
 Unless I had a tennis ball.  
 But mostly he didn't come at all.  
 When he was young, he never learned to heel or sit or stay.  
 He did things his own way.  
 Discipline was not his bag  
 But when you were with him, things sure didn't drag.  
 He'd dig up a rosebush to spite me  
 And when I'd grab him, he'd bite me.  
 He bit lots of folks from day to day.  
 The delivery boy was his favorite prey.  
 The gas man wouldn't read our meter.  
 He said we owned a real man-eater.  
 He set the house on fire, but the story is long to tell.  
 Suffice to say, he survived, and the house survived as well.  
 On evening walks, and Gloria took him,  
 He was always first out the door.  
 The old one and I brought up the rear because our bones were sore.  
 He'd charge up the street with Mom hanging on —  
 What a beautiful pair they were!  
 And if it was still light and the tourists were out,  
 They created a bit of a stir.  
 But every once in a while he'd stop in his tracks  
 With a frown on his face, and look around.  
 It was just to make sure the old one was there



To follow him where he was bound.  
 We're early bedders at our house,  
 I guess I'm the first to retire,  
 And as I would leave the room,  
 He'd look at me from his place by the fire.  
 He knew where the tennis balls were, upstairs.  
 I'd give him one for a while.  
 He'd push it under the bed with his nose  
 And I'd push it out with a smile.  
 Before very long, he'd tire of the ball  
 And he would be asleep in his corner in no time at all.  
 And there were nights when I'd feel him climb upon our bed  
 And lie between us and I'd pat his head.  
 There were nights when I'd feel his stare,  
 And I'd wake up and he'd be sitting there.

I'd reach out to stroke his hair,  
 And sometimes I'd feel him sigh.  
 I think I know the reason why.  
 He'd wake up at night and he would have this fear  
 Of the dark, of life, of lots of things  
 And he'd be glad to have me near.  
 And now he's dead, and there are nights when I think  
 I feel him climb upon our bed, and be between us, and I'd pat his head.  
 And there are nights when I think I feel that stare  
 And I reach out my hand to stroke his hair  
 And he's not there.  
 Oh, how I wish that wasn't so —  
 I'll always love a dog named Beau.



Fred and Viola Armstrong celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary last Saturday. Mr. Armstrong worked at Georgetown District High School for over 17 years in maintenance, while Mrs. Armstrong spent over five years there working in administration. Photo by Wendy Long

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