

*Pat Burge of Springfield shares her mother's story of survival.*



*Nadine Dunigan*

As I celebrate my 70th birthday today (Oct. 5), I'm so thankful to have my 87-year-old mom, Nadine Dunigan, to celebrate with me! Shortly after returning home to south-east Missouri in 1977, after a visit with me to attend the mother-daughter banquet at our church, she found a lump in her breast. Yes, the Big C.

She overcame that with much prayer, a mastectomy and chemo. Through the years, she has also overcome lung cancer and a heart attack. She now deals with diabetes and COPD.

My nephew calls her a "tough ol' bird" — and he's right!