

To My Incredible Family;

When this journey first began, I had every intention of writing a unique and special letter for each and every one of you explaining the impact you have had on my life. I then began to realize it would take an eternity to write you all and explain my feelings. To me, that is what I love about us all. We are an enormous family filled with such love and compassion for one another it is amazing. No matter the struggle; no matter the hurt; no matter the disagreements; when the dust settles or trouble strikes, we are all there for each other without hesitation and without judgement.

It goes without saying I am who I am because of all of you. You have taught me respect, strength, determination and right from wrong. You have showed me discipline and constraint. Without you, I cannot even imagine what my life would be like. There is never a dull moment, never a day where I do not hear from one of you. We are a family, dysfunctional at times, but we are so filled with love and commitment that nothing can tear us apart. We have our differences, but we can and do always put them aside to help each other out. We forgive. We love. We care. We stay committed to each others well being and sense of self.

My life is filled with wonderful and joyous occasions and memories of each and every one of you. From soccer tournaments, vacations, and family gatherings, to gymnastics, hockey games, football games and trips up north. My upbringing was blessed, and I owe my life to each and every one of you. I realize my choice of words just now, but I chose them carefully. It is my life, the person I have become; the father, husband and friend; that I owe to all of you. For that reason, I owe my life to you. I have learned so many of life's lessons through direct and indirect teachings from all of my family.

No matter what, it was always reassuring that I could all not one or two of you, but all of you, without hesitation, and you would drop your life to help me out or listen. It is an amazing feeling to be brought up in such a close knit and loving family. I hope and pray my children get to experience, witness, and enjoy such a blessed upbringing. Their lives would be perfect.

We give advice, but we listen. We help, but we also encourage. We understand, yet we discipline. Growing up in a large family is very near and dear to my heart. We all are unique and bring something so very special to each other's lives. I would not have had it any other way. I hope you know my love for you is unparalleled, and that I hope you understand the impact you have on my life. I respect you more than you will know, and listen to every word you say.

I wish I had the energy to write all of you because I have so many beautiful memories of you all. I have no regrets, and I have lived as you have taught me. God has blessed me throughout my whole life, and I am the happiest person to be living such a life because of you.

Thank you for loving me so much. Thank you for being with me, by my side, through thick and thin. Thank you for staying true to yourselves, and bestowing upon me the greatest traits any person could ever have. I love you all so very much. You are my world. You are what makes me, me.

I love you with all of my heart.

Love always and forever,

Your son, nephew, cousin, uncle, grandson, daddy, husband, brother Ryan