

To the most beautiful group of Friends,

You are my family, but when it comes to these letters, I have to write you separately because of the nature of what I am trying to say. If you knew how much you mean to me or how much I love you, you would understand what makes me so determined and committed to living life to the fullest. I get so many messages about me being an inspiration, and I think it is ironic. The irony lies in the fact I have acquired such a trait from all of you.

It does not matter if we became friends 20 years ago or 20 minutes ago, you all have a special and unique place in my heart. Granted, the longer I have known you the more wonderful memories I have, but I do not regret a single thing. With some of you, I have learned the hard lessons with life. With others, I have experienced the best life has to offer. You have taught me humility, honor, respect, and dedication. You have taught me betrayal, hurt, and sorrow. Some experiences are negative, I realize this, but it is all a part of life and growing up. They are part of the experience, and I am grateful for everything I have learned through you.

The support you provide me, and the love you extend are amazing. You have a way to make me smile like nobody else can. You push me to keep going. You carry me through the darkest of times. You inspire me to give back and help others. It goes without saying I have the best friends a person could ever ask for. It is amazing how much time has past since I have seen or spoken with some of you, but it feels like it was just yesterday when we speak to each other again. The amazing thing is you are each a part of a puzzle that will never be finished, but each memory, each message, each word of encouragement of hope, adds on to my life to make me who I am. Each piece forms and directs my life into something different, something better than the day before.

No matter what I am going through now, I am so grateful I have my mind. Without my mind, I could not smile and laugh out loud thinking of all the years leading up today filled with such amazing, crazy, and beautiful memories. From kindergarten through college, from internships through career choices, I have met so many beautiful people that I am fortunate, blessed, and very lucky to call my friend.

I have lived a life of complete joy. I have experienced so much with all of you it could fill a 100 life times. As I am writing this, so many special things and life experiences pop up in my mind. I am smiling just going through the many names of people I have met and grown to love so very much. I have a unique and special memory of ever body I can think of that is just shared between you and I.

You are my extended family. There are so many of you I could call this very second to express my life, and you would know exactly what to say to make me laugh. I could be scared, sad, happy, mad, or nervous, and by calling you, my life would make sense again, and I would be able to go on living with a smile.

I cannot thank you enough for the life you have given me; the hope you have instilled in me; the love you have shown me; and the friendships you have given me. I have said it a million times, but it is so important for you to know: I love you all, each and every one of you, with all of my heart and soul. I cannot or will not live without you by my side. Thank you for loving me. Thank you for your continued care. Thank you for always being my friend. I love you.

Love always and forever,

Your Humble Friend, Ryan