

Remarks of Caitie and Rich

Chazy Graveside Program

August 7, 2021

As people gathered, Sara played music on the cello from under the tree.

Caitie: Welcome- thank you for being here with us. Rich and I will say a few words and invite you to join us in a few songs Aidan loved.

Caitie: Aidan was a curious, funny, creative and courageous young man. He lived each day of his life with passion and joy. He was also a devoted big brother and friend. He was lucky to be surrounded by so much love in his life, and we feel so thankful to be surrounded by all of you as we grieve his death together. We want to recognize what each of you have done to shape, guide and bring joy to Aidan's life.

Caitie - to recognize Pattersons, Frydmans, Everetts, Katherine Baker, the Bartletts, and the Fierers.

Rich - to recognize Prices, Fields, and Aidan's close friends Leo and Noah.

Caitie: When Aidan was born, we named him Aidan to connect him to his Gaelic roots through our Scottish, Irish and Welsh ancestors. The name derives from a Celtic word for "sun god" and means "bringer of fire" It proved to be apt as he lived life with intensity and impact. We also chose it because we had never known anyone with the name- only to find it became super trendy the year he was born. He was always one of many Aidans in any peer group, but loved being part of a tribe of Aidans and always signed his name Aidan P. His close friends all called him "Price". Price of course connected him to Rich's family. His middle names, Julius and Patterson, were a connection to this side of my family, to Chazy and Champlain. His ancestors have been buried in this beautiful place going back to Pliny Moore, who died in 1822, and who at 18 was a drummer in the Revolutionary War and the first of our ancestors to live in this area. And walking here yesterday I saw the gravestone for the first Julius I know of in the family, Julius Hubbell who died in 1880. Even when they lived far away, people in my family have continued to return to this ancestral home for many

generations. Aidan loved history. It felt fitting to us to bury him in this cemetery that is so meaningful for all of us and to celebrate his life at Chazy where we had so many wonderful times together.

Poem:

Young Life cut short – for the brother of a dear friend

Author Unknown

Do not judge a biography by its length,
Nor by the number of pages in it.
Judge it by the richness of its contents
Sometimes those unfinished are among the most poignant
Do not judge a song by its duration
Nor by the number of its notes
Judge it by the way it touches and lifts the soul
Sometimes those unfinished are among the most beautiful
And when something has enriched your life
And when its melody lingers on in your heart
Is it unfinished?
Or is it endless?

Rich: Music was at the core of Aidan's life from the very beginning so had to be part of our service today. He loved to bring people together to sing. And we want to sing three songs right here that remind us of so many happy times singing together. Two of these, we also sang at his memorial in Berkeley last Sunday. Here are lyrics and we invite you to join us:

"How can I keep from singing"

"I'll fly away"

"Swing Low, Sweet Chariot"

Caitie: Aidan had a gift for sensing when the people around him needed to be lifted up with a joke or a song or a game or a story. He knew how to bring people together and to help people, help each other. On behalf of Rich, Emmett, and myself - your

presence today helps all of us so much. ...you can see, Aidan is still bringing people together.

Rich: We are so thankful for the incredible joy, love, and perspective that Aidan brought to all of our lives. There is not a doubt, that Aidan would want us to play more, laugh more, sing more, hug more, and love more.

So that ...is what we'll do.

Let's conclude this graveside ceremony by connecting Aidan and all of us to the earth.

Aidan was a true California kid -- he was both born and lived nearly his entire life in the San Francisco Bay Area. While we wanted him to be buried here among his family members, we also wanted to bring some reminders of his home to join him in this beautiful resting place.

To build a meaningful connection between these two distant locations, we and others have brought some earth from meaningful places in Aidan's life. I'll start by describing a few of them. I will also ask a few others to add a little more about soil folks have gathered from meaningful places in Aidan's life.

(Rich) Some soil from the yard of our Berkeley home where Granny (my mom Mary) helped Aidan and his childhood friend Will plant a guava tree.

(Rich) Infield dirt from the King Middle School baseball field where Aidan and friends played a modified home run derby every day at lunch...definitely messing up his swing and pitching form...

(Noah and Leo) - Dirt from where he had lunch w/friends at Berkeley High every day. Sand from Ocean Beach and dirt from Gilman fields where Aidan played frisbee with his friends.

(Caitie) A rock from the shoreline in Chazy by the cabin that will be temporary gravestone until we find something more permanent

(Rich) Finally, please feel welcome to add some soil from this beautiful place as we adjourn.

In the years ahead, we hope to continue this tradition by bringing meaningful objects from nature to Aidan's grave as we come to visit together.

People brought rocks from meaningful places in Aidan's life to add to the Champlain soil including:

Loon Lake, NY

South Toe River in Celo, NC

Skipping rock from our Chazy lakeshore

Broadway NYC, NY

Ann Arbor, MI