

My Mom

I am Richard, Louise's son. For many in the audience it will be a surprise I can actually string more than one or two sentences together at a time. I apologize at the outset for my lack of eloquence. I wanted to stand in front of you and just let you know how much my family and I truly loved and still love my Mom.

I look around the congregation and see the faces of many terrific mothers, but I could not have asked for a more wonderful mother for me, my sister, and mom/wife for my Dad. She was also an incredible grandmother to Ella, Sawyer, Mary Louise, and our little boy coming this June. We were blessed to have her for so long, but without a doubt I would be remiss to say I did not want many more years. My Mom devoted her life to my Dad, my sister, and I. Mom and Dad paved the way for all my successes. I take full responsibility for my failures, but my Mom and Dad gave me strength and courage to handle those as well.



I would like to share a few quick anecdotes.

Perhaps a few in the audience will remember the movie "Wedding Crashers" where Will Ferrell plays a somewhat loserish thirty something. In one scene, he sits on his couch in his underwear and shouts at the top of his lungs for his Momma to bring him some lasagna. Somewhat sheepishly, I must admit I was like that character growing up with my innumerable requests for a PB+J while I sat lounging in the family room. However, at least I would say please. But no matter what my Mom would always bring it to me with a great smile on her face and I now realize it was out of her unconditional love for me.

Another special moment I shared with my Mother was when I had traveled to Niagara Falls. At the base of the Falls, I called my Mom in San Antonio and held up the cell phone so she could hear the roar of the falls next to me. I could tell at that moment she was so excited and happy. But as time has passed I realize it was not so much the garbled noise of the falls which made her so happy, but the fact her son was so excited and happy to be there.

Nor will I forget the phone call she made to me while I lived in Lake Tahoe. She told me I better get my rear on that plane to go to my last medical school interview. This one being in Lubbock. If she had not been so persistent I would have never met my wonderful wife and her amazing family.

My Mom truly loved all my friends knowing how much they mean to me. And for my friends who grew up with me in San Antonio I certainly consider her at least co-Den Mother of "the Hui" (What we called each other).

Her Love and devotion did not stop with Dad, Laura, and I but also encompassed her two brothers, Charlie and Johnny, her sister Joanne, and their respective families. She was quite the Maestro at keeping our family so close over the years with the holiday celebrations, family trips to the coast, and endless birthday parties. And to my family, we owe it to my Mom and Lala (her mother) to keep those traditions strong and I know we will.

Mom was also devoted to her friends and would do anything within her power to help them. She would quickly offer her opinion even if it wasn't exactly what you wanted to hear. I honestly feel my Mom was a human version of Facebook. She knew so many people and I could keep in touch with everyone through her. I would spend many conversations with her in attempt to find a cure/treatment for her friends' illnesses. She didn't quite realize that I am just a "Picture Doctor" (radiologist) but that did not deter her.

Recently, a friend emailed me and told me during a particularly trying time, my Mom, who had been thru a somewhat similar incident, had written a beautiful letter about hope that my friend still remembers to this day. That was my Mom.

My Mom may no longer be physically with us, but her spirit courses through her children, grandchildren, and all she touched with her kindness. I see my Mom in my sister and the way she loves her children and takes care of them, albeit not quite as strict.



And lastly to my Dad, who has been a true hero, and a pillar of strength thru this ordeal. Mommy is so proud of you. We want you to know how many people love you from your friends, your family including Charlie, Johnny, Joanne, and Sudie who many a moon ago stopped being in laws but true brothers and sisters, your grandchildren, and of course Ginger, Michael, Laura, and I!

Mom I want to say one more time "I Love You"

Lovingly Spoken by Dr. Richard Charles Batz, Jr. at the memorial service of his Mom
2009

Louise H. Batz on April 30,