

I have been trying to figure out where I should begin – It's not that I don't know what to say, but more to do with how I can even put into words how proud I am of the young man you are becoming. Being the non-Jew or "honorary Jew" as your Nana would call me, I am finding it even harder to put it into words. This day isn't about reading your prayers, Torah and haftorah perfectly. It is about far more than that. It is about something far bigger than yourself too. It is about leading a good life, sticking up for those that can't and being the light in this strange world we live in today.

I look back on how we got here today and our journey to this moment began on a beach in Fort Lauderdale when you were a baby. There are a few people on zoom who were even there that day, but for those that weren't....Rabbi Frazen dunked you and your sister into the ocean. It was actually kind of scary for mom and I, being the rookie parents of twins. I had no idea at the time it would lead you here, but Mom and I knew we wanted to at least be given a choice for you and your sister to make that decision. Most importantly, it made your Nana so happy, she was always the happiest spending time with her four grandchildren. She also knew it would provide you an opportunity to be here today as well.

Then fast forward to us living in Boston and being asked to come to an Ice Cream Social. Just come they said!! Everyone is very nice!! And the rest is history and we have the E's to thank for that. We also need to thank Karen, who was president at the time, for welcoming our family with open arms. She was there to see us join and her and Bill are here today as part of our Minyan. We have certainly come full circle. We also want to thank Beth, Neil, Jacob and Hebrew school Josh (because we also have best bud josh) for being here today to make our Minyan.

Going back to what to say to you. You and your sister were named for my Dad – Grandpa Bruce. While you never were able to meet him, you have always reminded me of him. From the way you used to sit like a “W”, to your hands...you have his hands, you have the big blue eyes of his mom too (your great Nana), the love of all things baseball and of course the love of the Red Sox. But what reminds me most of him, is your quiet, kind and loving soul that you have. Or as Rabbi B would say...a Jewish soul. This is what is going to take you far in life. You might not have a ton of friends but the friends you do have mean a great deal to you. Being in middle school is not the easiest and we have had many a

conversation about being a good friend. But most importantly, a good person.

You are the first to stick up for a friend in need.

You are also one of the most determined people I know. I really feel bad for anyone who would doubt you because you will certainly prove them wrong.

We/you have had some bad days – bad tests, missed a few musical notes on your French horn and have certainly made some errors and strike outs in baseball.

Mom and I have always been there to listen to you and given you words of encouragement, but you then have dusted yourself off and continued to work hard to improve yourself. I have seen you grow so much just in the past few months. Whether studying for today or wanting to be a better baseball player. I have always told you hard work pays off. But I think you are finally believing your “old mom” and NO I am not 50! Well not yet....

You have handled in stride not being able to have your extended family and friends here today. But please know all those people out there in “zoom land” love you and wish you the very best. Just keep being you – and that’s the blonde haired, blue eyed Jewish boy – now a young man, that we all know and love.

Always remember that Mom and I and Brooke are so very proud of you!! Your grandparents are all with you today. Grammie and Poppy got you your tie, you have Grandpa Bruce's tie clip and it was an honor to wear Grandpa Bob's Tallis. But also know that your Nana set the stage for you to be standing before us today.