

To my dear Mom,

Our family had a miracle life together which all started with a summer romance in Israel. How lucky are we all that you took a chance and left your home country to make a new life with dad. As you know he often speaks that he would do it all over again if he could. He talks about how you both knew your love for each other after such a short time and the truth is you have both created an amazing life for Sari and I and we have all been blessed with so much happiness.

The past several weeks have been the hardest of our lives. You have endured more than anyone should ever have to handle, and yet you continued to fight to be with your family through to your final moments. Despite all of your challenges this past nine months, your best qualities continued to shine through. You continued to show your devotion to your family, and being together always took priority. You never lost your giving nature, your fierce loyalty, your use of kind words, your positive smile and your concern for others. But this was no surprise. It was the way you carried yourself throughout your life, to all your family, friends and even many strangers you met along the way. These qualities defined you as a person and will be some of the strongest within my memories. I know dad, Sari and Wendy feel the same as they both openly express this about you as well.

I know you would not want us to mourn for you and I will do my best to put my efforts into our family and the people around me, as you have done throughout your life, but I must acknowledge that I am saddened by so much. I realise that my sadness goes well beyond missing you already. I am hurt by all that you endured and had to experience in your final hours and it really pains me to think about how hard it was for you. I am also grateful that we ultimately got you to a comfortable place and I was able to be with you until the end. I will work very hard to forget how hard it

was for you and always remember the good and love that we all exchanged over our lifetime and within the final hours as I held your hands.

As I try to make sense of all of this now, I don't want to dwell on the negative, and I know you expressed the same. In your positive way, you made sure to say that we should have no guilt when this was over, and I don't believe I do. In a way, you allowed us to express our love for you in a way we never were able to before and I felt very privileged, honored and humbled by the complete faith and trust in us to provide for your care. I feel confident that we left no stone unturned in helping you fight this fight. But our biggest achievement was getting you home for four days of togetherness to say our goodbyes after your long hospitalization -- and separation. This time was a blessing and a gift that we all cherish.

Mom, there is no way to sum up all that you have given to this family and the people around you. While I am very saddened that you will not be directly here in our life moving forward, you will never be forgotten from our lives. We will continue to build our lives based upon your legacy of contributions to this family. I could talk about the amazing trips you took us on, your thoughtful gifts or the many experiences and family occasions we spent together, but the outpouring of love we have felt and received since you've gone away is something that illustrates how much you have touched so many. If you are able to see and hear this, I hope you can still feel this love and recognize all that you have contributed throughout your life. I'm certain you were always too humble to acknowledge this about yourself, but perhaps now you have an opportunity to look on from a different place, and sit proudly watching as the seeds you have planted in all of us continue to grow and flourish. Sari and I are a perfect example of this. And your beautiful grandchildren, too. The strength, love and confidence you instilled in me over the years gave me what I need

to be successful in life, and the ability to help you in your most challenging times. Also, so much you have given me over the years has been carefully carried over in the way I raise my children today, helping to shape the confident, good hearted adults they are becoming. You taught me kindness, unwavering love, gentleness, and a contrasting ability to be tough when needed. You showed me to be loyal, honest and to be strong enough to step forward and do the right thing, even when it might be the most difficult. You demonstrated how to have a greater awareness of the people around me and to help others, even when it was not so convenient. Your generosity with both your time and money were actions quietly demonstrated over and over. Your love of Israel and the United States have helped define many of my beliefs today. Last, and most special, your vibrant energy, laughter and fun personality were contagious to the people around you and this is how you will be remembered.

I don't think there was a word said in this speech that we hadn't expressed to one another over the years. Our relationship was one that included both plenty of expressions of endearment but also went so deep that words were not needed as affirmation. We have always just understood one another.

The only thing left is to say thank you for everything. Though the words would never be enough, it just feels good to say it out loud.

You are permanently part of all of us. We love you.