FATHER’S DAY SPEECH

FOR

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Hello everyone.

There is a Mayan Indian proverb that teaches us,

“In the baby lies the

Future of the world.

Mother must hold the baby close

So that the baby knows it is his

World but the father must take him to

The highest hill so that he can see

What his world is like.”

To all here today, Happy Father’s Day. Whether we’re father or son, uncle or brother, we have all been touched by the presence of a father figure in our lives, and whether he was there too much or not enough, today is the day we honor his presence, his memory, his impact and his legacy. Father’s Day was originally initiated in the early 1900’s as a counterpoint to Mother’s Day, and after all, I’m sure most of us feel that to formally acknowledge a parent on at least one day a year is the least one can do for the life we’ve been given. The Mayan proverb reminds us of how the mother’s role is to nurture and it also acknowledges the father’s role in providing a vision of what the world is and what the future will bring. Father’s Day acknowledges the man that sacrifices for us, provides for us, disciplines us, and teaches us. He teaches us how to play, how to learn, and how to find our faith.

It is believed that the first thoughts of celebrating fathers originated in Spokane, Washington in 1910 by Sonora Smart Dodd, to acknowledge her father who was a Civil War veteran and single father of six children. It is important to recognize that the earliest celebrations of Father’s Day were rooted in religious services. Although Mrs. Dodd’s service took place in the YMCA, it was led by the pastors of the local church and held on June 19th, 1910. A few years earlier, in 1907, the Menongah Mining Disaster in Virginia killed 361 men. 250 of them were fathers. Thousands of children in Menongah were rendered fatherless. At the time of the disaster, Grace Golden Clayton was mourning the passing of her own father, Methodist Minister Fletcher Golden. Mrs. Clayton had the idea to celebrate fathers in a “Father’s Day” service to be held close to her father’s birthday, and so the first Father’s Day celebration in Virginia was held on July 5, 1908. No matter who claims the actual first “official” Father’s Day, a couple of points are clear: Fathers need to be acknowledged and celebrated, and it is no coincidence that the church is at the center of the celebration.

Someone once told me this story, “One night a father overheard his son praying. “Dear God, Make me the kind of man my Daddy is. Later that same night, the father said his prayers, “Dear God, make me the kind of man my son wants me to be.” My father was (**name your father**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. He was a deacon who did his best as a father. He guided me through life and faith and helped me to know God. I am proud to be his son and he lives on in me. There are so many lessons and memories I have of him. (**Name 3 lessons or memories that your father taught you that you have found to be unforgettable**). I remember, as a child, what it was like (**describe the feeling of seeing your father in church**) seeing my father as he inspired and gave support to his parishioners. I was so proud of him. My father was there for the congregation as well as for us-he provided moral support and spiritual guidance for anyone he met. (**Describe some of your father’s most unforgettable characteristics**). He had \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and was able to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with one gesture. His faith inspired me to find that faith and connection to God within me. (**Say one or two sentences about your relationship with your father that you find most inspirational and lasting**). \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

I’m a very blessed person. The greatest gift I ever received came from God and that was my parents. My mother is wonderful and my father was exceptional. He gave me the strength to stand on my own two feet and the wisdom to make sure those around me are be able to do the same. He brought out the best in me…whether I liked it or not at the time, and I will consider myself very successful if my legacy is even half as honorable as his. To all of the fathers being honored today, congratulations. Remember the impact your father has had on you-how he’s inspired you to live a Godly life and how you, in turn, spread the word to those who look to you for guidance. Never forget your place in the circle of life and as you honor thy father, honor thy son as well.

Thank you all and have a happy, healthy and blessed Father’s Day!