EULOGY

WRITTEN FOR

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Hello everyone and thank you for being here today to celebrate the life and legacy of my incredible mother, Patricia Patterson. Although for generations people believed that Dr. Benjamin Spock was an eminent authority on so many aspects of child development and parenting, he said something to which I must take exception…. He said, “There are only two things a child will share willingly; communicable diseases and its mother’s age.” (**If you want, you can say this coyly and wait for the laugh**). As the daughter of the late, fabulous Patricia Patterson, I must amend Dr. Spock’s missive. This child also intends to share the joy and blessings and infinite gift of having such an incredible mother. Each one of you knew my mother in a unique way and whether it was through professional or personal circumstances, as friend or family, neighbor or co-conspirator… with grace and friendship… whatever your connection may have been, life was brighter, richer, and more dimensional for having known her. Her legacy is obvious and that is to remind us to remember every single day of just how blessed we are. Because of that, and even though I am heartbroken that we won’t share actual physical time and space on this earthly plane, I find myself inspired to celebrate her life and the light she so liberally shared.

How did I ever get so lucky to be the daughter of Patricia Patterson? Talk about hitting the **MOTHERLODE!!!** What an amazing woman she was!! Originally from California, the “dynamic duo,” namely my mother and her notorious side kick sister Geraldine moved from there to New York and went on game shows to win some money and make ends meet. If that isn’t a clue to the magic that was this woman, I don’t know what would be! Have faith in oneself and one’s determination while having fun… She and my Aunt Geraldine must have done very well on those game shows…. and as she lived her life and found her way in the hallowed and historic halls of New York culture and heritage, she demonstrated her dedication to others time and again with her selfless involvement in causes that resounded within her. She was on the board of the Boys Club and I remember at one point she “adopted a family.” We would visit them every week in Harlem (**if you feel it’s authentic you can add**) and I have to say, those connections and visits taught me so much. Mother **(…or use the name you called her**) was also on the boards of the Central Park Conservancy, the NYC Ballet, Venetian Heritage, and the International Council of the Museum of Modern Art. It is through the generosity of spirit of people like Patricia Patterson that this world and New York are a livelier and more culturally enriched place.

Of course all of this civic involvement was magnificent but her spirit and passion for knowledge and connection perpetually inspired her to more and greater feats…. and no… she “didn’t quit her day job…” In fact as a VP at Sotheby’s Realty, she was, in her time, the “Go To Broker.” (**You can add if you like**) Today’s generation has “Million Dollar Listing” but it was **superwomen** like Patricia Patterson that paved the way and created the foundation for the incredible real estate business that we marvel at today.

My mother loved life, people, culture, and learning and brought a profound resonance to Tennyson’s adage, “I am part of all that I have met.” She lived to experience life to the fullest and she demonstrated that liberally, especially with her buoyant and fascinating dinner parties. As any of you that have ever been to one, you were probably caught in the elegant and playful shuffle dubbed, “The Patterson Pass.” This was the tradition at those dinner parties in which, at dessert, each man would grab his napkin and glass and move two seats. What a great idea that was to keep the conversation lively and the guests engaged (**If you want you can add**)… and speaking of game shows, I wonder if that ever became an **answer** on “Jeopardy…!” I wouldn’t be surprised!! (**And wait for the laugh**).

As you already know, my mother was a caring and thoughtful person, always putting the well being of others before her own. One lesson that stays with me even after so many years have passed also shows us what a golden and thoughtful spirit she had. If… heaven forbid… I would complain that I didn’t want to go someplace or do something; she would not miss a beat in reminding me to think of others and not myself. She would tell me to give a good time and not to worry about having a good time. I now can appreciate that missive is the root of my blessings.

She loved the Christian Science Faith because of its commitment to positive thinking and the recognition of the importance of mind over matter. She was a perfectionist and she was beautiful even without her laser focus on her appearance. After the first in a series of strokes, she wouldn’t let anyone touch her hair… **BOY** was she feisty!!! And although she had suffered many of them starting in 2011, she **NEVER** gave up fighting. She was in and out of hospice care 3 times!! Forget about “Grey’s Anatomy!!!” We had our own drama! I will never forget on one of those “visits” I wound up pushing her bed out of the hospice room into the elevator and straight to an emergency room… Some may have called her stubborn… I didn’t even realize she had this in her until those incidents…. but I think it showed her fierce determination and focus… the same characteristics that she brought to every adventure in her life… from the game shows to her charitable involvements to her joy of sharing her great good fortune and experiences with others through her travels and travails…. like the time a few years ago when she was invited to an anniversary party… in California. Because she was confined to a wheelchair at the time, the hostess reached out to me and we decided that under the circumstances it would be best for Mother not to attend. Do you **REALLY** think Patricia Patterson fell for **THAT**? (**You can say**) “Survey says…” **NO!**! (**Wait for the laugh**). My mother went ahead and booked a flight for herself and her caregiver Laura… and made sure to reserve a car service as well… upon arrival!!!

That’s just a little bit of the focus, determination, strength, independence, and joy that was my mother Patricia Patterson. I love her dearly and she loved all of you. Her friends meant the world to her and I am sure each one of you knows that. She comes alive in these stories and in our hearts and memories and every time one of us shares an anecdote, the world recalls how bright it was with her in it. Patricia Patterson’s legacy is simple and priceless. Live each day with joy and appreciation. Learn, grow, and share your light. If you do that her light will continue to brighten our lives. Heaven just got to the dessert course and made room for their muse with the ultimate Patterson Pass. She will join that gorgeous table and she will be sprinkling that fairy dust liberally!!

There is one other thing indelibly etched into my being because of my mother. She taught me to be grateful and to appreciate every day and to always express thanks for what we have. I am so thankful to be Patricia Patterson’s daughter and I am grateful that I see her reflected in each one of you. Thank you.