**15449, James Tawil**

Good Afternoon Ladies and Gentlemen,

I want to welcome everyone who is here to share this event with us today, the Bar Mitzvah of our twin sons Joseph (Jakob) and Elliott. Thank you for being here with us today. Most importantly I want to thank my wife of 16 years, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, for putting up with all my nonsense and bearing our six beautiful children. Despite how busy we are she keeps our family together with her endless energy and positive outlook. I also want to thank my sister Marilyn, as well as my brother-in-law \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, my cousins\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and all our friends who have come from both near and far for this momentous celebration.

I stand here before you today, a good, responsible, Zionist Jew, a father that cherishes and loves every moment he spends with his family. We have actually been blessed with three sets of twins. Joseph and Eliot are turning 13 and are the reason we are gathered here today. Then we have our two daughters Olivia and Tevia and our two younger brothers at age four, Avi and Lazar. My Mom and Dad are both alive and are both here with us today but Mom has had some tough health issues to deal with this year. I want to take a minute and wish her a Happy Birthday a little early since her 78th birthday is June 6. I am thrilled and thank God that I have both of them still with me. I want to thank Rabbi Shinberg and Tamir for their dedication and support for teaching our boys Torah.

Jakob was the first born of our oldest twin sons. He is an artist, a poet, a soul thinker and a day dreamer, a charmer and a dancer. He is funny and very social. He loves life and loves doing good things for other people. This is what God does, he takes care of others. He can be a forgetful soccer keeper but he does enough to get by. I guess it’s the artist in him that hinders his organized side. Elliott is a little different in his own way. He is compassionate and caring and does his own thing. He’s a friendly, athletic soccer player and a good student, very responsible. He can be very hard headed at times. But, he is very analytical, always searching for the truth. Everything has to make sense to you. The world is not always looking for truth, but the truth strengthens society, community, and our people. Our religion makes so much common sense based on the wisdom of life the truth of life. Elliott, the older you get you’re going to find so much truth and wisdom. Each of the boys has their own personality and they are very competitive. In general, they are very loving to each other, which mirrors the atmosphere of our home. That is something else I want to express my appreciation and gratitude for to my beautiful wife.

We have so many wonderful family memories together such as trips to Disney. They enjoyed Puerto Vallarta adventures that included mountain climbing and zip lining, water trips to Lego-Land, trips to New York City during freezing weather in December and FAO Schwartz. They also enjoyed our snow skiing trips to Israel, visiting the Dead Sea and climbing historic Masada.

I know I don't do as much as I could, but every parent always wants a better life for their children. Parents want their children to be happier, smarter, and more successful than themselves. I want to impress upon my sons that this is just the beginning of commitment, responsibility, and growth to them. Remember this is NOT graduation! This is the beginning for them to become responsible Jews and young men that we can count on for the betterment of Jews all over the world and for the state of Israel.
Thank you