**15744, Daniel Scholes**

Good Evening Ladies and Gentlemen,

I want to welcome you to my son Ben’s Bar Mitzvah and thank you all for coming to join us in this celebration. I love my son very much and I am so proud of him. He has worked very hard to prepare for this event and has proven himself every step of the way.

Ben is a sweet, kind, and gentle young man, but under that peaceful exterior beats a heart that is passionate about many things. The most important things to him are his family and friends. We have always been a very close family. Another thing that he loves is sports. He has loved sport since he was a baby. He loved it so much that his first word was “ball”. Of course he has only added more sports to his busy schedule as he’s gotten older. He not only plays hockey, but he plays the position of goalie. Along with that he is an avid golfer. Oh, and you might find this hard to believe but when he’s not playing sports, he watching sports. His favorite is football. My son and I have a wonderful relationship, as much friends as father and son. He is very mature and has taught me so many valuable things in life.

Family is the most important thing in the world. I have the most beautiful wife, Michelle. She is wonderful and has been a tremendous, supportive life partner. Then there is our daughter, Ben’s younger sister. Sara is both funny and smart, something that can be a treacherous combination when she decides to aim her humor our way.

I remember when I was Ben’s age and went through my Bar Mitzvah. I had my whole life ahead of me and had no idea of the joys and challenges that life would bring. I was so excited that day with the prospects before me. As the years went by and I faced some insurmountable challenges. But, when I overcame those challenges it gave me courage to go on and face the next thing in life. Each success gave me strength to take another step and another. Each step I took I learned another lesson and saw more victories. I love and care about my family more than anything else in the world. I am so lucky to have them all in my life.

Ben, my son, I see you stand here today and I am unbelievably overwhelmed with love and joy. All those years ago I could not imagine that I would one day have such a son. And, one day, years from now you will stand in a similar place with your son at his Bar Mitzvah. Only then will you truly imagine the joy I feel today. Nothing is more important than family and today my family has made me more proud than I have ever been before.

Would everyone please stand with me now and offer a toast to my son Ben !