**BAT MITZVAH SPEECH**

**FOR**

**BILL MARBACH**

Hello everyone! (**Name your wife**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and I want to welcome all of you, our family and friends, and thank you for sharing this wonderful occasion with us. Today is a day we express our love and gratitude, we acknowledge accomplishment, and celebrate our daughter Bret’s rite of passage, her Bat Mitzvah. As I look at Bret with pure admiration.... which I do every day, by the way... (**If you want to make a joke you can say**)... of course the hair and make up and wardrobe are a little bit of a different look from the standard basketball uniform... (**Wait for the laugh**), I cant help but think, how did we get so lucky? Bret, even with the trials and tests she has had to confront in her young life, is a magnificent example of why parents “**Kvell**.” (**If you’re more comfortable, say “burst with pride.”**).

Life has a way of bestowing unimaginable blessings while throwing some curve balls.... maybe it’s to make sure we’re paying attention... Trust me... for our kids, **we pay attention**. ... But I hope that as we witnessed Bret read her portion of the Haftorah, we continue to keep in mind just how poised, strong, accomplished, and resilient this young lady really is. I may be a little biased, but believe me, Bret is beyond unique. If she had only studied her heart out for this moment... which she did, it would have been **enough** (**Do you want to say “Or, as we say, ‘Dayenu?’ And wait for the laugh**). If she had just been a wonderful daughter, a loving sister to Brooke, and a devoted “roomie” to our dog, Harley, it would have been **enough.** If she had just been one of the foremost 13-year old elite basketball players in Boca Raton.... and **BEYOND**... it would have been enough, but **nooooooooo**.... our Bret is a **WINNER** at life. When she was six years old, an age when other young girls just have to worry about (**Name something like a doll or game that Bret was into as a 6 year old**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, we discovered that Bret had juvenile diabetes. Once we overcame the initial shock and “adjusted our course,” we saw then what we know now, and that is that Bret is a **CHAMPION...** and although there were major adjustments to be made and vigilant care to be taken, our daughter tackles each day with sensitivity, enthusiasm, optimism, and a resilience that I find inspiring.

Every day gives us an opportunity to appreciate and celebrate one another, and in preparation for today I’ve remembered so many of the sweeter moments we’ve shared...skiing at Steamboat... our wonderful family trip to Israel, going to Eagles and Vikings games.... **yes**... and witnessing my daughter fulfill her destiny.... by becoming a devoted Philly sports fan... Of course this Bat Mitzvah will be one of those special moments we will look back on in years to come and think, “Wow, Isn’t she **SOMETHING**.”

Bret, I don’t know how you do it, but I’m so glad you do... I love seeing you grow and blossom, and whether it’s nailing those basketball skills or “honing your discerning palate” on well made Caesar and some filet mignon, it makes me so proud to see how you’re finding your voice in every area of life. I’m deeply moved that you know that you are so much more than a pancreas that won’t secrete insulin and that you scoff at the thought of limitations. I’m inspired by the way that **NOTHING** stops you, and that living a compassionate, happy, active, delicious life makes you strong and teaches all of us so much. I know that we all wish and work towards the day when medical research finds a cure for juvenile diabetes, but until then, we have your light and energy to show us all just how wonderful life can be. Congratulations Bret! We love you!