**Allen Speech/Rev. [EZ Speech No. 16276]**

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Remarks by Mrs. Denise Allen at her son’s high school graduation.

you know, every mother loves her kids; it’s just when those kids have developomental or behavioral problems, that love hurts a little.

that’s why i’m so very grateful to have found a high school for my son, lyndon, that *gets* it . . . that truly understands the challenges of special needs kids *and* of their parents . . . and a school that brings to the task of education an unbelievably rich combination of creativity, competencey, and compassion.

so if i may, i’d just like to use my time here today to say “thank you,” with the deepest gratitude, first of all, to my unbelievably supportive husband, [name], and to our other wonderful kids, [list their first names], for always being there . . . for helping, caring, encouraging.

next, i want with all my heart to thank the entire faculty and staff of the seem collaborative, who have done so much and worked so hard to help lyndon grow up and mature. you’ve done a terrific job, everyone —

[pointing at your son] as you can plainly see! — and I’m as grateful to you as I am proud of lyndon for all you’ve accomplished together.

so in closing, i’d be remiss if i didn’t give a very special shout-out of thanks and appreciation to **pam mulvey**, lyndon’s counselor (and oftentimes, mine as well!), whose patience and understanding have meant the world to lyndon and me . . .

to **maureen** [**last name**], **jo** [**last name**], and the whole admin staff, who were always there to listen, to encourage, to facilitate, and of course, to care . . .

to **jesse [last name**], in the math department, who was not only lydon’s math teacher but his intellectual buddy, as well, a relationship i’m sure lyndon’ll cherish forever . . .

and to **lexi [last name**], in drama; **megan** [last name], in the english department; and **lee** [last name]: thank you from the bottom of my heart for all the work you’ve done with lyndon over the years. we’re both more grateful than words can say.

i only wish [science teacher’s name] were with us today for a special shout-out from us for the inspirational relationship he nurtured with lyndon until virtually the day he died.

but to all of you who *are* here: thank you, thank you, thank you.

[to your son] lyndon, i’m so very proud of you, and i’m so very grateful that you are my son.

[if you can do it: make the split-finger “V” sign]

live long and prosper!

thank you.

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