**[EZ Speech Writers No. 14935]**

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Remarks by Amir Lamei on the occasion of his friend, Tyler’s graduation from his residency in orthodontics.

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HI THERE, EVERYONE . . .

WE ARE GATHERED HERE [TODAY/THIS EVENING] TO CELEBRATE TYLER [LAST NAME’S] GRADUATION FROM HIS ORTHODONTICS RESIDENCY HERE AT [NAME OF INSTITUTION]. OF COURSE, BEING THE SHY, RETIRING, AND MODEST KIND OF PERSON HE IS, TYLER DIDN’T REALLY WANT US TO GO THROUGH A LOT OF HOOPLA OR BOTHER IN RECOGNIZING THIS WONDERFUL MILESTONE IN HIS CAREER. IT WAS — IF YOU’LL PARDON THE EXPRESSION —LIKE PULLING TEETH, BUT FINALLY HE BIT THE BULLET, AND AGREED TO SHOW UP.

NOW AS ALL OF YOUR PROBABLY KNOW, TYLER WAS LITERALLY BORN TO BE A DENTIST . . .

Photo: **CHILD 1.JPG**

THE FACT THAT BOTH HIS MOTHER AND STEP FATHER WERE ORTHODONTISTS PROBABLY HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH THIS, TOO, BUT THERE WERE MANY, MANY EARLY SIGNS THAT TYLER WAS DESTINED TO BECOME WHAT HE HAS BECOME TODAY.

IN FACT, AFTER MONTHS OF INTENSIVE RESEARCH, THOUSANDS OF INTERVIEWS WITH FAMILY MEMBERS AND FRIENDS, AND LONG HOURS SPENT IN [STEP FATHER’S FULL NAME] BASEMENT, WE WERE ABLE TO IDENTIFY A NUMBER OF THOSE LITTLE TELLTALE SIGNS THAT SUGGESTED LONG AGO THAT TYLER MIGHT VERY WELL TO END UP IN THE TEETH-FIXING BUSINESS. AND WITH YOUR PERMISSION, I’D NOW LIKE TO SHARE WITH YOU THE RESULTS OF ALL THAT TEDIOUS RESEARCH, BY PRESENTING TO YOU THE “TOP 10 REASONS WHY TYLER [LAST NAME] WAS DESTINED TO BECOME AN ORTHODONTIST, AND HERE THEY ARE, COURTESY OF THE DAVID LETTERMAN TOP-TEN-LIST ACADEMY:

NUMBER TEN: AS A CHILD, TYLER’S FAVORITE TOY WAS A SPOOL OF DENTAL FLOSS.

NUMBER NINE: ONE HALLOWEEN, HE SPRAYED HIS HAIR GOLD, DRESSED UP AS A LATERAL INCISOR, AND CALLED OUT “TRICK OR TEETH!” AT EVERY HOUSE HE WENT TO.

NUMBER EIGHT: THE FIRST TIME HIS MOTHER SAID SHE WAS GOING TO HAVE TO “WASH YOUR MOUTH OUT” — HE WAS DISAPPOINTED TO LEARN THAT SHE *WASN’T* TALKING ABOUT LISTERINE!

NUMBER SEVEN: HE WAS, BY THE AGE OF SIX, ONE OF ONLY 14 DOCUMENTED CASED IN WORLD HISTORY OF A CHILD BRUSHING HIS TEETH REGULARLY WITHOUT BEING TOLD TO DO SO BY HIS PARENTS!

NUMBER SIX: THE FIRST BIB HE WORE WAS A MEDICOM DRY BACK DENTAL BIB!

NUMBER FIVE: YOU CAN ASK HIS MOTHER, BUT I CAN TELL YOU THAT WHILE HE WAS NURSING, TYLER GAVE A WHOLE NEW MEANING TO THE WORD “TEETHING!”

NUMBER FOUR: THE TITLE OF HIS HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION PAPER WAS *“THE Treatment of caries in relation to lesion severity: Implications for minimum intervention dentistry.”*

NUMBER THREE: WHEN HE LOST A BABY TOOTH AND PUT IT UNDER HIS PILLOW, HIS PARENTS REPLACED IT WITH A TRAVEL TUBE OF COLGATE TOOTHPASTE, INSTEAD OF A DOLLAR.

NUMBER TWO: AS A CHILD, HE WAS CONVINCED THAT THERE WAS A SPECIES OF DINOSAUR KNOWN AS “ORTHODONTICS REX!”

AND THE NUMBER ONE SIGN THAT TYLER [LAST NAME] WAS ABSOLUTELY DESTINED TO BECOME AN ORTHODONTIST: THE FIRST WORD TO COME OUT OF HIS MOUTH WAS “BICUSPID!”

NOW, ALL KIDDING ASIDE, TYLER WAS ALWAYS A VERY SERIOUS AND STUDIOUS SORT. HE BEGAN READING *THE DENTAL TRIBUNE* AT THE TENDER AGE OF FIVE . . .

Photo: **CHILD 3.JPG**

. . . THEN ALL THROUGH HIGH SCHOOL, AND LATER THROUGH COLLEGE, HE CONTINUED HIS SERIOUS AND STUDIOUS WAYS:

Photo: **COLLEGE 3.JPG**

BUT DON’T GET ME WRONG; TYLER CERTAINLY KNEW HOW TO HAVE FUN AND LET HIS HAIR DOWN, AS SHOWN IN THIS ARCHIVAL PHOTOGRAPH FROM [YEAR] TAKEN AT [PLACE OF PHOTO] . . .

Photo: **DENTAL 3.JPG**

TYLER DID VERY WELL IN DENTAL SCHOOL, AND IN FACT GRADUATED AT THE TOP OF HIS CLASS. HE’S A *VERY* SMART GUY!

I KNEW TYLER IN DENTAL SCHOOL, BUT WE REALLY GOT TO KNOW EACH OTHER WELL AND BECAME REALLY GOOD FRIENDS ONCE I STARTED MY ORTHO RESIDENCY AT [NAME OF INSTITUTION]. HE WAS A YEAR AHEAD OF ME AND WAS ALWAYS THERE TO HELP ME, SHOWING ME THE ROPES, ANSWERING ALL MY QUESTIONS, AND JUST BEING A DAMNED GOOD FRIEND. He EVEN opened his home to all of OUR friends AND CO-RESIDENTS to host a baby shower for my wife and ME, FOR WHICH WE WERE OF COURSE ENORMOUSLY GRATEFUL.

I WAS, AND AM, TREMENDOUSLY LUCKY TO HAVE TYLER [LAST NAME] AS A FRIEND. BUT TRUTH BE TOLD, TYLER’S BEEN A PRETTY LUCKY GUY IN HIS LIFE, TOO.

FIRST OF ALL, HE WAS LOVED AND CARED FOR AND RAISED BY TWO OF THE NICEST, KINDEST, AND MOST GENEROUS PARENTS YOU COULD EVER IMAGINE . . .

Photo: **FAMILY 2.JPG**

. . . THE WONDERFUL [FATHER & MOTHER + LAST NAME]. AND AS IF THAT WEREN’T BLESSING ENOUGH, TYLER WAS ALSO SOMEHOW LUCKY ENOUGH, WHILE IN COLLEGE, TO WIN THE HEART OF THE GORGEOUS AND BRILLIANT [FIRST NAME OF WIFE] . . .

Photo: **COUPLE 4.JPG**

. . . ALTHOUGH HE FIRST HAD TO CONVINCE HER THAT HE WASN’T JUST SOME VAGRANT OFF THE STREET BEGGING FOR A HANDOUT INSTEAD OF HER HAND!

AND FINALLY, AFTER [NO.] YEARS OF UNDERGRADUATE SCHOOL, [NO.] YEARS OF DENTAL SCHOOL, AND [NO.] YEARS OF ORTHODONTIC RESIDENCY, HE’S MADE IT . . .

Photo: **DENTAL 1.JPG**

. . . A REAL-LIFE, BONE FIDE, FULLY QUALIFIED, AND RARIN’-TO-GO ORTHODONTIST. [RAISE A GLASS TOWARD TYLER] CONGRATULATIONS, MY DEAR FRIEND. MAY YOU REMAIN THE SWEET, GRACIOUS, AND GENEROUS PERSON YOU’VE ALWAYS BEEN . . . MAY YOUR LIFE WITH [NAME OF WIFE] BE FULL OF NOTHING BUT JOY, HAPPINESS, HEALTH, AND [TURN TO HIS PARENTS] CHILDREN(?) . . . AND MAY YOU NEVER LOSE THAT REFINED, *GENTLEMEN’S QUARTERLY* LOOK YOU’VE SO CAREFULLY CULTIVATED OVER THE YEARS . . .

Photo: **COLLEGE 4.**

ALL THE BEST TO YOU, MY FRIEND; MAY YOU LIVE LONG AND PROSPER!

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