

# Chapter Eleven

## My Three Sons

I have already said the best years of my life were raising my boys. I wish I could have done more, and I regret that I couldn't give them the security and knowledge that I did not have at the time. I did the best I could with what I had in those days. If only I knew then what I know now.

I love you all so very much. Each of you has been a blessing in my life and has given me so much love and happiness which made this book possible.



## **Richard**

When I think of Richard I see a big lovable teddy bear. He has so many great qualities. He is kind, thoughtful, considerate, caring, responsible, dependable, and has a great sense of humor.

He is great to talk with because of his many great qualities. He is a very good person and I am very proud of him.

Richard went through the public schools in Fair Lawn through the ninth grade. We sent him to high school at the Milford Academy in Connecticut in order to prepare him for college. He did very well there and did much better in school. He did attend Belknap College in Center Harbor, New Hampshire on Lake Winnepesaukee. It only took him one semester to figure out college was not for him. I think he was majoring in skiing and spent too much time with that activity.

The Viet Nam War was going strong about that time and Richard was very likely to have been drafted. Through connections we were able to get him into the New Jersey National Guard. He made it through Basic Training and came home for a visit looking absolutely great! He was in great shape, groomed, well dressed, and very well behaved. I could not get over how wonderful he looked. I will never lose that image of Richard when he came home from training.

Richard settled in to life after the National Guard and became a very good salesman. He became part of owner of a window treatment company and did very well. That was a major achievement for him.

He married Raina Grand, daughter of Seymour and Annette who we have known since we moved to Fair Lawn. I have known Raina most of her life and have always loved her. She is so good for Richard and I am so happy they are together. They have a beautiful house on Long Island in Glen Cove, NY. Raina has two sons, Matt and Lee, which Richard helped to raise. He did a very good job of raising two boys which were not his and they have a very good relationship.

I am so happy for Richard that he has such a wonderful family. They have a great deal in common and have so much fun together.

## **Spencer**

I am so very proud of Spencer. He is a wonderful person and has so many wonderful qualities. He is very responsible, kind, compassionate, considerate, caring, and dependable. Like all of my sons, he also has a great sense of humor. Many people would say he is extremely humorous. He can be very entertaining and charming.

Spencer went to Graham College in Boston. After graduating, he took an Electrical course in Hackensack, New Jersey, and became an electrician.

He worked as an electrician for many years. He eventually became an electrical contractor and has been doing it ever since with great successes. I have to give him a great deal of credit to get where he is today. He owns Spencer Electric and has established himself as a very reliable and talented contractor. He has worked extremely hard and his company has a great reputation. I am very proud of him.

Spencer and Kim's daughter, Alexis, is 13 years old now and recently celebrated her Bat Mitzvah on January 22, 2011. This was so very exciting for me and I was very emotional through the entire long weekend. She did such a wonderful job with her performance in Temple and has become such a beautiful and socially graceful young lady. Her Bat Mitzvah could not have gone better. It was also wonderful having the family together in New Jersey. I am very thankful there was no snow storm that weekend.

Kim has been such great support for Spencer. She has always been successful in her career and as a mother. She does her best to keep him from working to long or too hard and keeping him as healthy as he can be. She has been such a wonderful addition to our family and I love her very much for all she does.

Spencer is a man of few words. When he speaks he has something very important to say. He will never argue with anyone over anything. If he disagrees with someone he just lets it go. He has a great deal of tolerance for all ways of thinking and allows each person to have and feel good about their way.

## **Bennett**

I have always had a soft spot in my heart for Bennett because he lost his father, a son and went through a terrible divorce. The divorce did not have to be as traumatic as Josie made it be. However, Bennett and Alan got through it and I am very proud of the way he handled all these terrible life tragedies.

Bennett is a great person as are all my boys and I am very proud to have him as a son. He too is responsible, kind, caring, compassionate, considerate, and dependable. He also has a great sense of humor. I love and admire the person he is.

He attended Baker University in Kansas and played football all four years. Unfortunately, he lost his front four teeth during a game his freshman year, but he still has a nice smile. I think Bennett used football as an incentive to stay in school. He said many times he might not have finished college if he did not play football. He kept his grades up just so he could keep playing and wound up with a degree in Journalism.

Bennett married Josie in September of 1980. They divorced a few years after Ryan's death. Alan eventually chose to live with his father which could not have been a smarter decision. Bennett did a great job raising him and he is such a wonderful young man.

Alan graduated from Humboldt State University in May of 2009. Like many young people he is not sure what he wants to do with his life. He ran track and cross country in high school and continued through college. He would be a great coach someday and that is one of his pursuits.

Bennett found success as a sales rep in the computer industry. He recently became engaged to a beautiful and wonderful woman named Debbie Cutter. She has an 11-year-old son named Jacob and a 20-year-old daughter Caitlin in college. They live together in Oak Park, a suburb of Los Angeles, and hope to marry sometime in 2012.

I am so very happy Debbie came into his life. What I like most about her is her ability to recognize and appreciate Bennett's great qualities. This insight will go a long way in keeping them together and make it possible to enjoy and love each other no matter what. Debbie is very accomplished in life. She is psychologist and runs her own business working and helping children with Autism.