

# The Eagle's Wing

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## A Final Farewell to our Seniors from their Parents...

### Aidan Anderson

*Aidan-*

Wow! How can you be a high school graduate already? The time has flown by faster than we ever expected it to! It seems like just yesterday, there stood a blonde haired, blue eyed little boy, now that little boy has become a man. We have loved every minute of watching you participate in all of your activities throughout the years and will miss it so much! To tell you we are proud doesn't even begin to express the pride and joy that we have for you. You are about to start the biggest adventure in life! We know there are huge plans in store for you and can't wait to watch them all unfold. Remember to live every moment, laugh every day and love beyond words.

Love always, Mom & Dad

### Nicole Clarahan

*Dear Nicole,*

Proud doesn't even begin to describe how your father and I feel about you and the young woman you have become. We always knew that you were destined for greatness. I want to start with a short story on how you have been patient from the day you entered our world.

"Neil, my water broke." As I am shaking your father to wake him up. At this point, your dad took a shower, while I woke Patrick to take him to Grandma's. You didn't seem to be in any hurry, yet. In fact, you patiently waited until we arrived at the hospital before you quickly (18 minutes later) graced us with your presence. Your patience and resilience have always been one of your most admired qualities.

Though I think Patrick played a part in making you a tough little girl, you certainly had/have no problem holding your own. In elementary I remember getting a "discipline" sheet sent home, and thinking there must be a mistake. "Not my sweet little angel." In fact, Kota always said you had a voice of an angel. Well, the paper said you hit a kid with a walnut at recess. You, very dramatically and with quite a bit of detail told a story of your friend (Allison Sieren) being picked on by Dalton Dodd. Of course, you didn't know they were cousins, and sometimes cousins do that. You took it upon yourself to defend Allison and hit Dalton square in the head (probably between the eyes) to let him know that you weren't going to stand by and let that happen. It was definitely one of the proud moments, but I had to explain that there may have been a better way to handle the situation. You continued to have other moments in elementary where you let the boys know not to mess with you or your friends.

Speaking of friends, your dad and I have always felt blessed that you, Taylor, and Macie have developed such a lifelong friendship. I am sure that the three of you have had your share of disagreements, but throughout the years, you have always seemed to guide each other to do what is right. You have been our three musketeers for so many years, it will be hard on us Mothers not to see you together because you each have shown support to each other unconditionally with no judgment.

Your father and I admire you for so many things: your love of family, your support of friends, your drive to be the best, and determination to be successful, your story-telling...sometimes while you are telling me a story, I lose focus and just watch in admiration of your passion and detail... your financial awareness, and most of all your kindness and content.

Guiding and supporting you throughout your academics and extra-curricular activities has given your father and me more joy than you will ever know. Seeing you mature into the determined young woman that you are today, is one of our biggest successes as parents. We are so proud of the path you have chosen. You will always have our love and support in all that you do! And we'll make room at home, should you ever decide to return to us.

Love Always & Forever, Mom & Dad

### Dulaney Clubb

*Dear Dulaney,*

I want you to know how much I have enjoyed being your mother the last 17 years. Even before you were born, you changed my life, for the better. Each day you push me to be, not just a better mother, but a better person. While I am accused often of having favorites and you named yourself favorite in my Snapchat, I can say you are my favorite first child and teenage daughter. I know things haven't always been easy but I believe it is the challenges in life that

teach us lessons and make us stronger. Through it all you have been the one I could count on to help when needed and be understanding when things didn't go the way we wanted.

As we get closer to graduation day I am reminded of a song by Suzy Bogguss, I've "had 18 years to get ready for this day," not sure where those years went. "Letting go," is one of the hardest things I have ever had to do. You will always be my little girl that never wanted to leave my side. As you finish out the year I want you to know "there's nothing in the way now," and "there's room enough to fly." Spread your wings and do great things. If you falter know that I still love you and will always be here for you know matter what.

Love always and forever, Mom

*Dulaney,*

Will start this letter off by saying how I am beyond proud of you and also want to say Congratulations to you!

The past four years have flown by! Seems like it was only yesterday you were starting your freshman year of high school.

As long as I can recall, you have always taken all of your classes and grades so serious. You have always put a lot of effort, determination, and dedication into everything you do and have done! Even when homes become stressful and hectic, never once did you give up.

Finally, the time that you have been working and waiting for has arrived! Graduation Day! Before you know it, you will be headed off to start your next chapter in your life, college! I know that you will do amazing and I am excited to watch you succeed and reach this next goal you have already made for yourself.

It has truly been a privilege being your stepmom! I have enjoyed watching you grow up and become the beautiful, smart, talented, responsible, young woman you are today!

Being able to attend the EagleRock performances and plays you participated in, both were my favorite things to come watch you do! Both of which you did amazing in and definitely rocked!

Some advice I'd like to give to you is remember to find time for yourself to relax or even to simply have fun. Don't be afraid to live a little because you deserve to do so! Your dad, all your brothers, Braydon, Dayton, Kyler, and your youngest sister Jaycee, and I love you and all of us want to wish you the Best of Luck and again Congratulations Beautiful!

Love your stepmom, Erika

### Aiden Conrad

*My Incredible, Funny, Video Game*

*Playing, Acting, Computer Junkie, Aiden:*

Mom told me last week I needed to write you a letter for graduation. Honestly, I have been putting it off. I don't want to see you move on to bigger and better things, and I certainly don't want to talk about it, but I will muscle through this.

When you first came into our lives, I knew you were in all likelihood going to be our last baby. Oh my goodness, you were perfect. Absolutely beautiful in every way. What followed were countless memories of awesomeness, birthdays, camping trips, songs around the fire, skinned knees, reading books in my lap, Christmas's, Halloween costumes, thousands of 4-wheeler rides, fishing trips, boating, little sports events, speeches, concerts, drama, and songs, so many songs. Me opening the door and giving you a "shhhhh," and cuddles. Not nearly enough cuddles, but I'm a little greedy when it comes to cuddles, as you know. (ME) "AIDEN COME HERE PLEASE" (YOU) "WHAT?" (ME) "I NEED FIFTEEN MINUTES"...

And most of the time you indulge me. Holy Cow! Don't Blink! How do parents survive an empty nest?

Then seven and a half years ago you barfed up a bunch of Halloween candy, you were losing weight, sleeping, and peeing all the time. Mom took you to the doctor, and we found out you had Type 1 diabetes. It almost stopped me, but you took it all in stride. The daily shots, the mealtime shots, the constant finger pricks, the being awakened in the night to slurp down a juice when your sugar was low, or getting a shot when your sugar was high. The not getting to eat what you wanted, and counting every carb. Now you are graduating from high school after surviving a world pandemic. I really don't like writing these letters; I can't help but get teary-eyed. I am so very proud of my kind-hearted, incredibly smart, funny, and handsome baby boy. I know that the

world will be a much better place with you out in it, and mine will be a whole lot less great, but I can't wait to see who you become, and everything you will accomplish. We love you Aiden Marshall so very much. Congratulations "Petel" Love, Dad & Mom

### Dalton Dodd

*Dear Dalton,*

The time has come for your graduation day! It has been a joy to watch you grow and figure out what your passions in life are. I hope you never lose your love of agriculture! You amaze me with your perseverance, competitiveness, and your go with the flow attitude. You aren't afraid of hard work and I know that is a quality that you will benefit from your entire life. You will be successful in whatever path you choose! Love, Mom

### Taylor Garman

*Happy Graduation to you Taylor!*

To our little T, Tay, Tay-Tay, TG, Felix, and TT, we could not be prouder of you and this moment. I'm not sure how you are a senior but it makes me reminisce the last 18 years of your wonderful life and thank God for the gift he gave your dad and I.

From the minute you came into this world you were the sweetest little baby who barely made a peep. You were so calm and always loved watching your brother, even though it took him a few weeks to adjust to having a baby in the house. You were always such a content, sweet, observant little girl with a love of all girly things. You loved shopping and wearing your bows and hats at a very early age. You were so girly girl and I loved our mommy daughter dates to Claire's, the nail place, and so many other places. You loved the color pink and always wore your sparkly clothes, shoes, and of course bows. You loved the stage from an early age. I remember when you were three and had your first dance recital. You were the only one out there dancing and smiling and waving to your mommy and daddy in the crowd, when all the other little kids were crying. You loved the stage and performing. We watched you in sports and doing cartwheels in the outfield when playing t-ball, and your dad and I thinking to ourselves "is she really doing cartwheels in the outfield..."

Now, you are a senior and you still amaze us. You have worked so hard in everything that you have done and you always do it with so much heart and soul. Everything you do, you do it to perfection and to the best of your ability. You have always pushed yourself to do better and be better. Your faith is very important to you and you know it is the foundation of everything in life. You have such a sweet and caring heart and you love all of your family so much. You are a leader and a mentor to so many. We are so proud of you. Remember this is just an imprint on the big scheme of life. There's so much more out there for you, Taylor, and I know you are so excited to see what that is. You are ready for this next chapter and I am ready for you to experience it and grow in a different way. You are a beautiful girl on the outside, but I am most proud of the beautiful human being you are on the inside.

Remember how much we love you and as you know, we will ALWAYS be there for you and support you. I'm so excited to see where your future takes you. I know you will continue to challenge yourself and love exploring all the future holds for you. You have so many goals and dreams and I can't wait to see you experience and live them. Everyday, I am thankful God chose me to be your mom. The unconditional love that I

have for you and your brother is so big that it cannot be put into words. I will miss you so much and our trips to Dairy Queen and Walkers, but I am so excited for you to do your thing. Of course, we will be visiting you and loving our trips to Ames. We can't wait. Let the adventure begin...as ISU says. Love you, Mom

*Dear Taylor:*

Congratulations to my daughter, Taylor. It is unreal that you are graduating high school. When people say it seems just like yesterday, they are not lying. You have grown into such a strong and independent young lady. Your mother and I are so proud of you and all of your accomplishments! You have so much to look forward to as you begin your independence. Always know that your mother and I will love you very much and will always be there for you. We love you, Dad

### Dakota Hammen

*Kota,*

The date was June 7th, the year was 2004. This would be the last arrival you would ever be early for! This is of course your father's trait. You wouldn't be a Hammen without being late. So here you are, it is 2023. The year of your independence, the year you are free. The curfews and texts that you better be on your way home. The constant terror of handing over your phone. Cleaning your room, your car and the shed. Why this time next year you might even make your own bed. So off we send you with one last piece of our insightful knowledge. The free ride is over - welcome to college!

Love ya, Mom and Dad

### Phoebe Huber

*Dear Phoebe,*

You came into this world fighting. And we watched as you fought all the way through school. The grades came easy but life got in your way for a bit. So you took a pause. During this time we watched you grow. And on your own you decided that it was time for the return. And here you are. You did it. Despite (or maybe because of) everything life through at you. Your determination, hard work, and dedication to your goal is now a goal reached. Phoebe we are so proud of the young woman you have grown into. And we know as you embark on your next adventure you will do so with these same qualities. Keep making those goals and dreaming those dreams. In the end "it'll buff."

Love, Your family

### Carsin Kindred

*Dear Carsin,*

You have finally made it. I know you have been waiting for this day forever. I am so proud of you.

You are definitely one of the most caring people I know. When you were young you were almost impossible to get mad at when looking at your brown eyes, they just said I'm sorry in an ornerly way. It makes me so proud when I go into a store around town to hear about what a nice boy you are. That you always ask how it is going and say please and thank you. You make a lot of people's day just by doing that one little thing.

I have watched you grow into a confident person. You have never been a shy person. You have learned to speak up when needed and to stick up for yourself. Although sometimes I would like to win an argument.

I am thankful for all the help that you have given me over the years. You have really become someone that I can

depend on and have stepped up to help with Grandpa this last year. I will miss just having you sit down and talk with me. You have always been very open with me and everything that is going on. I never had to worry about what you were "really doing" when you go out with friends. I love that you appreciate me cooking for you all the time even though you are so picky that half of the meals were frozen pizza. College food will be very cheap for you when you just eat pizza for every meal. We have had a lot of great discussions just sitting down and having a meal together. I am grateful that I made you do that and I hope you make your children do that with you someday. It is very important.

There is no doubt in my mind that you will succeed in life, you are very smart and know so many facts about different things. You are determined and it seems like you really know what you want for the future. Good luck next year, I will miss you but I am sure I am going to get many phone calls when you and your brother move in together (still shocking to me.) I will not miss waking you up 10 times in the morning to go to school. My suggestion to you: schedule your college classes for the afternoon.

Love, Mom

### Macie McDonald

*To our amazing daughter,*

Since the day we brought you home from the hospital it has been a wild ride, from American Dolls that you had to have, to playing every sport that you could. Travel softball was the most fun. The older you got you fell in love with cars that turned into Rally Racing and racing Preston's Hobby Stock (keep rubbing it in that you are the only one to win with that car.) In the last year you were voted Homecoming Queen and tied the 3-point record, such an awesome time to see you have so much fun on the basketball court. We knew you would be a strong woman with the 3 brothers that you have to deal with everyday. That has only made you strong willed and definitely know how to get your way around the house. Now that it is time for you to end this journey and open a new chapter of your life we cannot wait to see what your future has to come. Cannot wait to see what this crazy new journey will bring. You have spent a lot of time planning for this and you will do great!!!

Love, Mom and Dad

### Chloe Pringle

*Dear Chloe,*

Where do I begin. When you were born it was all firsts. First child, first grandchild, first girl on the Pringle side in several generations. I don't think there was a family member not at the hospital waiting to meet you. You've always taken your time and done things at your own speed. Even your 22 hour long birth, haha. With every first time we've watched you grow into an amazing young woman. This year I've been focused on enjoying all the lasts. And shedding some tears during all of them. Watching you grow up and get to this point has been one of the greatest joys of my life. We are so proud of you kid and I know that this next round of firsts is going to be amazing. You are going to be amazing. No matter where life takes you. So congratulations Chloe. We love you. Even your brothers.

Love, Mom, Dad, Skyler and Aiden

### Jocelyn Purkepile

*Jocelyn "Jay"*

To say its been an adventure with you would be an understatement. You have kept us on our toes from day one in preschool announcing to the classroom you would henceforth be called "Snow White," to telling us you would marry a prince and live in a castle someday, to striving to find your way with your diagnosis, to graduating and beginning your journey into college. You have never let Autism define who or what you are, instead you have pushed through every day to find your place in this world- these are hard lessons and great accomplishments you have achieved and we as your parents could not be prouder of you.

You are no longer the lil' girl stomping into the living room with a piece of paper ripping it apart, stating these are my hopes and dreams mom and you are ripping them up (all because you got grounded); instead you are now a grown woman who is figuring out who you are and what will make you happy in life. You have conquered MANY challenges and we have full faith, you will do great

things in this world. Remember many of the greatest minds and people in this world who have made the greatest changes were different from others too. You lead with your faith, heart and gut instincts: these will guide you along the way.

You will always have a home to come home to if things get rough and we are just a phone call away. We all love you and are so proud of you!

Mom and Dad

P.S. Reminder to stay away from candle making before you start a house fire (AGAIN).

### Savannah Smith

*Savannah Marie Kathleen Smith,*

From the time you were entering school I knew this day would come. I'm so happy for you and very proud that you finished high school. Your plans are to go to Job Corp in August and learn construction. Also you really want to learn how to do tattooing. The most precious thing about you is how unselfish you are with your time and that you would help just about anyone if they ask you. Your father and I are so pleased to have you as a daughter. We love you so much. Can't believe that you will be finishing school this year. Again, thank you Keota High School for teaching her.

Love, Mom & Dad

### Caden Sprouse

*Dear Caden,*

Where has the time gone? It seems like yesterday we brought you home from the hospital to join Raigan, Addison and Carson and the circus ensued!! We would not have had it any other way. Being the youngest, we thought you would be the "quiet one." However, to this day, you are still the only Sprouse kid to be limited to 3 questions on any car ride. You wear that honor very well!! Not only do you talk the most, but also the loudest. Always making sure you are being heard. You have been drug all over the countryside from sporting events to sleep shows to Iowa State events. Through it all, you barely complained. You just found a new friend at each place we went. We are guessing that would be why you have no issues talking to anyone, as you have had plenty of practice. You have always been a whirlwind of constant motion, always into something. From your enjoyment of hanging with your grandpas farming, to playing 36 holes of golf each day, you have done it all in your own way. We love that you have that independent streak which leads you to stick to your convictions. You've also gotten good at attempting to talk yourself out of everything, which led Grandpa Duane to believe you would have made a great lawyer. Thank you for being true to yourself and being a great role model for all. You have proven that with strong faith and morals, nothing will stand in your way! Congratulations on your graduation. Good luck at Indian Hills and keep reaching for the stars! Remember you will always have a place at home!

Love, Mom, Dad, Raigan, Addison & Carson

### Caleb Waterhouse

*Dear Caleb,*

Well, I think it's safe to say that you have kept us on our toes since you popped into this world, but I wouldn't trade all the shenanigans for anything, it's been an amazing 18 years! We are so proud of you for all you have achieved Blondie! You know exactly what you want to do with your life, and I know your dad is excited for you to work with him. The skills you will gain at DMACC will be invaluable!

Each day is getting closer to the day you will leave for college and start the next chapter of your life. This is going to be such a wonderful time in your life and I want you to enjoy it, but it's also a time to challenge yourself. Join clubs, make lots of friends (they will last a lifetime), be safe, make good choices, study hard and remember to set your alarm!! As we prepare to let you go and take on the world, we have a few reminders for you.

- Believe in yourself, I have seen what you can do when you put your mind to something, and it's amazing. With commitment and hard work you will continue to achieve great things.
- Family. We love you unconditionally and will support you no matter what, we will always be here.
- Listen to your gut, if it feels right - do it, if you have any doubt - don't.
- Soar. Let your dreams take flight and enjoy the ride!

Remember, your past is your lesson, the present is your gift, and the future is your motivation.

Love you! Mom & Dad

