

DAVE GABLE SPEECH AT DALLASTOWN MEMORIAL SERVICE 27 FEB 2011

A FAMOUS ROMAN POET ONCE SAID:

LET NO MAN WEEP FOR ME, NOR CELEBRATE MY FUNERAL WITH MOURNING ... FOR I STILL LIVE ... EVERY DAY, AS I PASS THROUGH THE MOUTHS OF MEN.

TODAY WE COME TOGETHER WITH GREAT SADNESS IN OUR TREMENDOUS LOSS, YET AS STATED BY THE POET ... THROUGH OUR MOUTHS, WE HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO LET DAREN LIVE ON ... NOT JUST TODAY, BUT EVERYDAY BECAUSE IF THERE IS ONE THING THAT I REMEMBER MOST ABOUT DAREN, IT IS THAT HE WAS FULL OF LIFE. .. ENOUGH TO SHARE WITH EVERYONE HE ENCOUNTERED.

AND HE SHARED IT IN SO MANY WAYS ...

AS A STUDENT AT DALLASTOWN, HE SHARED HIS TREMENDOUS SMILE, WARMTH AND SINCERETY. WHETHER YOU HAD KNOWN HIM FOR 3 YEARS OR 3 MINUTES, YOU ALWAYS FELT WELCOME AND COMFORTABLE IN HIS PRESENCE. WHICH IS PROBABLY WHY YOU COULD NEVER PLACE HIM IN ANY PARTICULAR GROUP WITHIN OUR SCHOOL ... HE WAS AN ATHLETE, HE WAS A SCHOLAR, HE WAS A COMEDIAN ... DAREN COULD JUST AS EASILY DISCUSS WORLD EVENTS WITH A SCHOOL PRINCIPAL AS ENTER INTO A CONVERSATION ABOUT POKEMON WITH A 6 YEAR OLD WRESTLER AT YOUTH PRACTICE. HE TRULY TRANSCENDED ALL GROUPS.

FROM A PERSONAL STANDPOINT, DAREN WAS ONE OF THOSE INDIVIDUALS WHO COULD REMOVE THE STRESS AND BOREDOM FROM ANY SITUATION. NO MATTER HOW TIRED MEMBERS OF THE TEAM OR I MIGHT HAVE BEEN AT THE END OF THE DAY, YOU COULD ALWAYS COUNT ON DAREN TO BRING LAUGHTER AND ENERGY TO THE TABLE. MANY TIMES, I WOULD BE TALKING TO THE TEAM BEFORE OR AFTER PRACTICE LOOK TO MY LEFT AND THERE WOULD BE DAREN STANDING RIGHT ALONG SIDE ME WITH HIS ARMS CROSSED HIS CHIN CUPPED AND A SLIGHTLY CURIOUS ... DEVIOUS SMIRK ON HIS FACEIT ALWAYS MADE ME LAUGH ... AND IT NEVER GOT OLD. AND AS MANY OF YOU KNOW, IT WAS DIFFICULT TO GET MAD AT OR STAY MAD AT DAREN.

AND THE NICE THING ABOUT DAREN WAS THAT HE KNEW HOW TO HAVE FUN, BUT HE ALSO KNEW HOW TO WORK VERY HARD ... AND USUALLY BLEND THE TWO INTO A NICE NEAT PACKAGE.

THE FIRST TIME I MET DAREN WAS PRIOR TO HIS 10TH GRADE YEAR AT DALLASTOWN(HE HAD JUST MOVED HERE FROM WISCONSIN) AND HE INTRODUCED HIMSELF TO ME AND SHOWED ME THIS RATHER LARGE NOTEBOOK. I OPENED IT UP AND INSIDE WERE A SERIES OF TECHNIQUES, DRILLS AND STRATEGIES THAT HE PLANNED TO WORK ON IN ORDER TO BE A GREAT WRESTLER. IT WAS ALL METICULOUSLY LAID OUT BY THE

NUMBER OF TIMES HE WOULD COMPLETE EACH EXERCISE BY THE NUMBER OF WEEKS ETC NEEDLESS TO SAY I WAS IMPRESSED ... BUT THE MORE I GOT TO KNOW HIM, I WAS NOT SO MUCH IMPRESSED BY THE PLAN ITSELF, BUT BY ITS IMPLEMENTATION BY DAREN. HE NOT ONLY FOLLOWED HIS PLAN ... BUT ALSO WAS RECEPTIVE TO ANY OTHER PLANS THAT I GAVE HIM ... AND HE FOLLOWED THEM ALL. AND SURPRISINGLY ... OR MAYBE NOT SO SURPRISINGLY. .. OTHERS FOLLOWED HIM TO .. NOT BECAUSE HE TOLD THEM TO, BUT BECAUSE THEY WANTED TO. PEOPLE WERE ALWAYS DRAWN TO DAREN AND IF YOU PUT TOGETHER SOME OF DAREN'S ATTRIBUTES SINCERE, CARING, PERSONABLE, DRIVEN, TREMENDOUS CHARACTER WHAT DO YOU GET??? A GREAT LEADER. WHICH IS WHY I WAS NOT SURPRISED TO LEARN OF HIS CAREER CHOICE AND SUCCESS AS AN OFFICER. GENERAL NORMAN SCHWARTZKOPF WAS QUOTED AS SAYING:

LEADERSHIP IS A COMBINATION OF STRATEGY AND CHARACTER ... AND IF YOU MUST BE WITHOUT ONE ... BE WITHOUT STRATEGY.

DAREN WAS DEFINITELY A MAN OF CHARACTER. HE WAS A LEADER BY EXAMPLE AND MAGNETISM ... THE TYPE OF GUY WHO YOU WANTED TO FOLLOW BECAUSE YOU KNEW HE CARED. AND HE CHOSE A PATH THAT HE COULD USE THOSE SKILLS TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF MANY.

IT WAS INDEED A LIFE OF CHALLENGE AND TRIAL. .. BUT A LIFE OF DEFINITE CAUSE AND THANKFULLY SO, BECAUSE A LIFE WITHOUT CAUSE IS A LIFE WITHOUT EFFECT.

DAREN'S LIFE ALTHOUGH TRAGICALLY SHORT, WAS DEFINITELY NOT WITHOUT EFFECT.

HE AFFECTED SO MANY PEOPLE IN SO MANY WAYS ... FAMILY ... FRIENDS ... TEACHERS ... FELLOW SOLDIERS. HIS LIFE WAS TRULY ONE OF MEANING AND HONOR.

IN THE WORDS OF HENRY DAVID THOREAU:

THE PRICE OF ANYTHING IN LIFE IS MEASURED BY THE AMOUNT OF LIFE THAT YOU EXCHANGE FOR IT

DAREN MADE THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE AND JUST AS HE LIVED ... HE DIED ... CARING, SHARING AND UNSELFISH.

I WOULD LIKE TO CLOSE WITH A QUOTE BY HELEN KELLER;

WHAT WE HAVE ONCE ENJOYED, WE CAN NEVER LOSE FOR ALL THAT WE LOVE DEEPLY BECOMES PART OF US FOREVER. DAREN WILL TRULY LIVE ON FOREVER IN OUR WORDS AND MEMORIES.

REST IN PEACE DAREN