

Hello Everyone
I am going to do my best to hold it together
but please forgive me if I waiver at any point.

Firstly, thank you all for being here.
This would mean a lot to Dad.

I guess when something like this happens,
and you see such a massive outpouring of love and support from all our family and friends
and recognition from his colleagues,
you realise how much he actually touched people's lives.

He never asked a lot from anyone,
but he was always willing to give as much as he could of himself.

When I was a younger man,
unfortunately much younger, probably my son Hunter's age,
I remember Dad getting ready for a funeral- one of many,
and he was obviously upset.
I said to him, "Dad, you always seem to be going to funerals these days ,"
and he said, "Your time will come."
Boy was he right—too many funerals.

I guess, on the positive side,
these days it's often the only time we all see each other.

There was a time ,
Dad's sister Jimmi would denounce what I'm now about to tell you,
But short of a bolt of lightning at the altar
which, by the way, is a real possibility,
I can now say
although it's not widely known due to Jimmi's intervention,
that Dad was actually the youngest of seven children,
seven amazing people who touched the lives of many of the people here.

Unfortunately, many of the seven are no longer with us and have been gone for a while.
Of recent times though
Dad, Jimmi, and Malcolm would tease each other about going first and not being the last man or
woman standing.
However, I'm sorry Malcolm,
they beat you to it,
I know you are devastated to be unable to be here in person today
But you are now the only remaining member of the magnificent seven –
the last of the Mohicans
so take care of yourself because you are precious to us.

I know it has become increasingly common for a eulogy to be a recounting of a person's life, with
anecdotes and stories,
but I'm going to leave that to others.
What I would rather do is tell you what my father meant to me.

Dad was a lot of things:
he was a lawyer,
a businessman,
a friend to many,
a father to five children,
a husband to my amazing mother for 62 years—
and grandfather to 8 grandchildren, and those grandchildren meant the world to him.

He gave me so many things,
but one of the most important things he gave me was knowledge,
so I'd like to talk to you a little bit about Richard the teacher.

One of my strongest boyhood memories of my father
was of him teaching me the poem IF by Rudyard Kipling.

It actually started as part of a school exercise—
me needing to learn a poem to recite at school—
and like any young kid, I treated it that way
at least initially
and was more than a little bit reluctant,
particularly when he wanted me to learn the verses so that I could repeat them without having
the poem in front of me.

However, over the years I've come to realise that he wasn't making me learn a poem,
he was actually trying to teach me about life.

Because what he did do was ask me to explain the meaning of each verse.
It wasn't enough for me just to repeat the verse,
I had to explain to him what that verse meant.

I actually remember when I was finally able to give explanations for all of the verses,
Dad turning to Mum and praising me for being able to do that.
It obviously meant a lot to him,
and at the time, I didn't fully understand why,
but now I've come to understand that those verses and their meaning were reflective of how he
tried to live his life
and tried to guide his children, especially me, on how to live our lives.

The poem provides advice about the values and principles that one should live by
It also provides advice on ways to rise above the adversity that comes across everyone's path,

I realise that many of the things that Dad taught me growing up,
and even in later life,
have a connection to some of those underlying principles

He taught me to be a gentleman,
He taught me to be respectful,
He taught me to think about the consequences of your actions before you act,
He taught me the importance of being there for your family and friends
and wherever possible put those people first before the needs or wants of yourself.

He taught me to always challenge the answer "no" and try to push on.

For those of you who have experienced me fighting for you in your corner,
that fight in the dog came from him.

He taught me not to believe everything you hear
He taught me to go behind the story and the headlines
and truly understand what was going on,
as often the headlines and the sound bites were not the full story.
This was long before the phrase "fake news" became mainstream

He was intolerant of injustice wherever it existed.

From an early age, he used to talk to me about the wrongs that were perpetrated throughout history on many peoples, not just the causes that we see today although many of those have been going on since I was a child. Mans inhumanity to man was a phrase often used He taught me about the plight of the Native Americans in the Americas, the issues around the colonisation in Africa and Asia, about the treaty of Waitangi and the issues in the whole of the middle east not just the Palestinian cause to name but a few

But importantly he was able to explain to me why these injustices existed, not just the headlines, and therefore make it possible to understand why some of these problems have not been fixed even now, because the underlying causes are simply not addressed.

The last time Dad was in hospital, and we thought we were going to lose him one of several times, actually I took my sons Jack and Hunter to visit him and I think he was contemplating that he would not make it out of the hospital because he was being very reflective on life

Hunter was wearing his school blazer, and pinned to that blazer was a badge with the words RISE IN LOVE. Dad asked Hunter what the words meant and Hunter explained that "RISE IN LOVE" was an acronym for Respect, Integrity, Service, Excellence, in Love. I will repeat those words
Respect,
Integrity,
Service,
Excellence,
in Love.

Rise in Love

Dad was hugely impressed by that, and he spent the rest of our visit telling both Jack and Hunter that they should live by that motto and try to achieve all of those things in their lives He then slipped some prose into the conversation as he was often wont to do by repeating the closing words from of all things the poem IF :
"If you can do those things
yours is the earth and everything that's in it,
and what is more—
you'll be a man, my son."

That verse has always stuck in my head. Unfortunately, I've forgotten some of the others, but that is a verse that I do remember and that comes from my father.

However,
there is one other thing my father gave me

above all else
he taught me what unconditional love was.

Unconditional love is the kind of love that,
no matter what is said or done,
that love never diminishes.
It doesn't matter how big an argument
or how much you've let the other person down
or how selfish you've been,
it's the unwavering understanding that the person loves you and you love them.

It's always putting the other person first when it comes down to it,
and I think it is probably one of the most important lessons I've learned about love, life, and
relationships,
Its why my parents were together for 62 years
and why his family was everything to him.

Even after all the arguments
and those of you who are members of the family know what they can be like
and all the trials of life,
our family remains as solid as it always has been and always will be.

My sons are here today hearing this
and I hope they understand the importance of what their grandfather started.
He did not strive for recognition ,
honours ,
rewards
or any other from of legacy for that matter
but the knowledge my father imparted to me
and hopefully what I'm imparting to my sons
and their sons after them
is the legacy of Richard Farry.

It's a little-known fact that Dad's name on his birth certificate is not Richard Farry
He was actually named after his own father as Seba Richard Farry,
although he became known as Richard Farry.
I carry the name Seba in my name
And My sons both carry the name Seba in theirs
In fact Jack is named after his grandfather, as Jack Seba Richard Farry
so that the name Seba will continue down through the generations.

Many of you will know that in his last years, Dad was very unwell.
We nearly lost him more than once
but he battled on,
and the reason he fought so long and so hard wasn't because he wanted to cheat death,
it was because he loved his wife and children so much that he was prepared to endure that pain
for so long
it was for us,
because We didn't want him to go.

His love never wavered. It was always there.

He fought the good fight
and I found it very hard to see him struggle
particularly in the last stages of his life,
but it helps to know he's in a better place and he can now rest in peace.

So I'm OK with you going, Dad,
but I'm going to miss you.