

EULOGY FOR MAJOR DAVID SCOTT CONNOLLY

Delivered by Greg Connolly April 16, 2005

Let me start by offering a heartfelt thanks to the many people who are helping us through this difficult period. The support that our families have received is a testament to the life that we have come here to celebrate.

Where do I begin in speaking about my brother David? David was a bit of a paradox, he achieved so much in his short life but he never took the easy road. Even from an early age he was intent on setting his own path. In kindergarten, he left school on at least two occasions and walked the mile home. He told my mother that the teacher had let the class out early, of course she hadn't.

David never had acquaintances; he simply made great friends. Whether you knew David for all of his 37 years or just a short amount of time he made you feel welcome. The last few summers on his boat I don't think he ever had the same crew twice. Really, after being out with him once most would need some reassurance from Debbie that it was ok to get back on the boat. Many a summer night we sat listening to the Sox, fishing for Stripers in the harbor. Leisure was on the agenda but the conversation often turned to a series of questions. Could you do more, could you do better, could you make a difference?

David was his own man with a strong sense of values. He was so proud to have graduated from both Boston College and Suffolk University Law School. His love of country was what sent him into public service. Starting with enlisting in the Coast Guard, his service in the Army, and continuing with his joining the District Attorney's office. Many of us aspire to such goals only to fall short in the day to day struggle. David was a man who lived and died based on his convictions. In a society consumed by the individual, David believed in others.

All of David's qualities were magnified through the love he shared with Deb. As we all know they were each other's perfect complement. The past five years were the happiest years of his life. Dave and Deb covered a lot of ground together in a short period of time. Whether it was dinner in the North End, a night at Dooley's or Sunday at the Toran's house. There was one person that made David truly complete and that was Deb.

In closing, I would ask for your continued prayers and support for Deb and our families. But more importantly, I would challenge each of you to make a difference in the lives of others. Be it through a single act of kindness, persevering in achieving a personal goal, or supporting a cause for which you have conviction. There could be no more powerful testament and legacy to my brother David than for each of us to leave here today and make a difference in the lives of others. So today Dave is asking each of us these questions:

Can you do more?

Can you do better?

Can you make a difference?