**Beginning of Example of Eulogy Speech**

Steven and I met in Mr. Rollins' third grade class. I'd like to say we became friends immediately but, actually, I thought Steven was quite the teacher's pet, so I ignored him.

Of course, that studiousness and his ability to make friends with the 'right' people is probably why Steven ended up as the owner of his own successful company. I came to appreciate Steven's finer qualities and what I came to know eventually is that it was all real. Steven did not have an inauthentic bone in his body. Steven stood up for people. Something happened in the seventh grade that I will never forget and is a perfect example of the kind of person Steven was.

My brother, Eli, was two years younger than we were. There was a time when walking to school past Water Street became quite a challenge for many of us.

A gang of fellows gathered in front of a garage there and, when they were so inclined, they would drag one of us into their group and torment us. Most of us would escape eventually with a scraped knee or a missing lunch.

Eli and I walked together and usually when there was more than one, the hooligans wouldn't bother us. But one day I was sick and Eli had to walk by himself. He did not make it past the corner. Eli was grabbed and dragged to the center of their circle. You can imagine what happened after that. They pulled his backpack off him and pushed him down. Then Steven came along.

Years later Eli told me that even though Steven was the smallest kid in our class, he just walked right into the group and pulled him up off the pavement. He grabbed Eli's backpack and handed it back to him. "Go on," he told him. Eli scurried out of the group and looked back in time to see Steven taking his first punch.

I remember the next day Steven was pretty banged up with a black eye. I asked him what happened and he just said, "Nothin'... you know, Water Street." That's how Steven was, always strong, always humble.

As you know, Steven has been endlessly generous with our community through his charitable endeavors and with all of us who have been fortunate enough to call ourselves his friends. Steven, you are gone too soon and you will be missed.