

Good evening everyone.

On behalf of our family

I would first like to thank all of you for coming here tonight.

This means so much to all of us to have you here.

My name is Rene Steven Brand.

I am one of Joes 10 siblings.

There are 8 boys and 3 girls. I am the 10th child in line out of the 11.

You are all probably asking why I am the one speaking today for the family.

First and the most obvious reason was because I was Joe's favorite.

Actually

The real reason is because the first 7 siblings said no.

But I'm glad they declined.

Because, I consider this a privilege to talk about my brother Joe.

I'd like to spend a minute telling you about my dad first.

My Dad's name was Joseph Peter Steven.

He was a great man in the community.

A great husband

A great son

A great brother

A great dad.

A great Giddo (Arabic for grandfather)

A great uncle.

And A great friend.

It takes a very special person to live up to my Dads name sake.

So when my parents picked Joe there 4th son to carry on my dad's name.

Well, It turned out to be the perfect choice.

Because my brother Joe too, was a great man in the community.

A great dad to Jasmin and Shae.

He was great grandfather to Harper and Lola.

He was A great husband to Sandra.

A great father in law to John

Joe was a great brother

To Tom, who is now up heaven.

To his older brothers Rod and Craig,

To his younger brothers Brad, Dale Glenn and Duane and

a great Older brother

to his sisters Sissy, Diane and to MYSELF

Our family **grew up going to the lake.**

I remember once when Joe was dating Sandra he brought Sandra and her sister to the lake for the first time.

I think we called them the Ammar girls back then.

My brothers and Joe had to carry Sandra and her sister to the boat

because they didn't want to put their feet in the dirty lake water.  
I thought - no way is Joey going to marry her.

Sure enough - He did.

And then of course later

My brother Brad had to go and marry the other sister. Lol.

And boy are we glad they did.

**Sandra was married to Joe almost 40 years.**

Sandra - You are an amazing and strong woman.

Thank you for loving my brother Joe and taking such good care of him all those years and especially for the past year or so.

**It took a team to help with Joe thru all of this.**

But If I were to have a team in a situation like this

Let me tell you,

I'm picking Sandra and her 2 daughters Jasmin and Shae.

Jasmin, Joe's oldest daughter followed in her dad's footsteps and became a dentist and partner with her Dad at his office.

His second daughter Shae became a successful attorney and lives in Colorado.

Joe's daughters were so strong thru this process.

They never wavered or gave up hope.

**Thank you Shae - for putting** your life and career on hold and moving

back home from Colorado to help your mom and dad at home.

It had to have been so hard.

You were there day and night – how lucky he was to have you by his side.

### **And Jasmin**

Thank you for giving Joe peace of mind knowing you were handling

things at the dentist office

as well as taking care of his medical needs.

And juggling your time away from your kids.

### **Sandra, Jasmin, and Shae stayed true to what Joe wanted.**

And **how** Joe wanted to live his remaining days.

At home with his family by his side.

### **Joe was so proud of his daughters.**

When you face a situation like this.

You need to know someone has your back when you are down.

These 2 girls did that.

Jasmin, Shae...you were his pride and joy.

You were everything he wished for and then some.

Joe loved his life because you girls were in it.

### **Jasmin and Shae.**

I know I have said this to you before but

Thank you for taking care of our brother the way you did.

We are forever grateful to you both

### **Joe's world Revolved around his 2 daughters**

but even more so?

What rocked his world?

and what made his life worth fighting for was his precious grand daughters.

Harper and Lola.

### **When Joe went to MD Anderson for his first appt.**

He told the doctor he wanted to do whatever it took to get better.

and then he showed the doctor a picture

a picture of his 2 granddaughters.

Harper and Lola.

### **I think the doctor got the message of what was important in Joes life.**

It wasn't money or fame.

It was his family.

and It was his precious granddaughters that gave him strength and courage to carry on.

### **My brother Joe loved to golf**

I think!

But Joe said Golf was an expensive game.

I'm thinking how expensive can golf be here in Wichita Kansas

And then I heard why?

I guess it would be expensive if every time you golfed you thru your clubs in the nearest pond.

**We've always given my brother Joe a hard time about not having a son.**

I mean if you're going to be given "the family name".

You could have at least had a son to carry on the family name.

But then came John Rupp.

Joe finally got his son.

And boy did he get a good one.

John was a great son in law and a great friend to Joe.

When Joe was sick and they needed help at the house they would call John.

It didn't matter if he was on the golf course or out to dinner or after a long day at work

He dropped everything and came to help.

**John was so supportive of Joe and his family.**

Jasmin you couldn't have picked a better man

but most important a better person

to be your husband and a part of our family.

**John - I know Joe considered you to be like the son he never had..**

So john, I was thinking?

How do you like the name Joseph Peter Steven the 3<sup>rd</sup>?

It's just a simple legal name change.

I'm sure Shae could handle it for you. Lol

**Joe had many friends.**

His staff – were amongst them.

Most of them I grew up with as well going to the dentist.

It was the same staff – year after year. They became our extended family as well.

It tells you something about Joe as a person and a boss when you have a staff that has worked for you for 10 – 15 – 20 - 25 plus years.

I know Joe is trusting that you will take care of his daughter Jasmin

at the dentist office

as you took care of him when he was there.

Because that's what family does and you were a part of his family.

**But his closest and long time friend** who you will hear from after me is Mark Troilo.

They have been friends for over 42 years.

Mark is a fellow Dentist and a partner with Joe in his lecture programs.

Mark - You have been a part of Joe's life for as long as I can ever remember.

The stories you could tell about Joe and the stories you **should NOT tell** about Joe.

Mark.... thank you for being a lifelong true friend to Joe.

I know he loved you like a brother.

But Mark - You do know why he really chose YOU to hang OUT WITH.

First of all - You're the only person that he could hang out with - that made him look tall

And Your nose really did Make His nose look a lot smaller

And you somehow made it ok to have that bushy black mustache.

### **You are the best Mark!**

Thanks for looking out for him all those years.

Now he can keep an eye on you.

### **Being the 2nd to the youngest of 11 kids.**

I didn't really get to know Joe till my older years.

But boy did I pay the price for his actions while growing up.

Joe almost single handedly prevented me from going away to college at k state.

My parents said something like "they were not going to make the same mistake twice"

Till this day I have no idea what trouble Joe had gotten into when he was away at school.

No one really talks about it. But I'm pretty sure it wasn't good.

### **I've always called Joe the prodigal son –**

When Joe would come to see mom.....She would light up and gleam.

She would always tell me when Joe came to see her

And - how sweet Joe was.

I'm thinking.

### **What up with that?**

I'm over here almost every day and Joe comes around once a month.

And he's the sweet one?

But I knew!

Mom had a special place in her heart for Joe.

This past month, even though Joe was very sick and very weak.

He managed to come to my mother's house to celebrate her 92nd birthday.

He pushed thru and came to Moms house on Mothers day to see mom and all the family.

Joe knew that if he didn't come - it would worry mom

and he never wanted to worry her thru this whole process.

**Joe had a Newsletter that** he wrote and distributed to Dentist all over the United States.

Joe wrote an article in one of his newsletters about something personal.

It was about a pact that our parents made with us that became a family tradition that was passed down to our nephews and nieces and their families.

The pact was if you did not drink or smoke till you were 21 they would give us a \$1000.

Back in the 1950's that was a lot of money.

But in Joe's News letter - he wrote about how it became

Not about the money

But more about the pact that he made to his parents

—

As well with his 10 brothers and sisters.

He wrote about how all 11 of us made it by sticking together as a family and not giving in to outside peer pressure.

Because family was so much more important and stronger

than the outside peer pressure.

And how he never wanted to let his brothers and sisters down.

He wrote about how it impacted his life growing up so much that he continued this tradition with his 2 daughters.

And how proud he was of his 2 daughters for accomplishing this goal as well.

He also wrote that he hoped his fellow dentist would consider such a family tradition with their families because of the bond it formed with his family.

It was a personal article – but he felt it was important to share with his fellow dentist.

So I wanted to share it with you.

**My younger brother Duane said that Joe always questioned him about drinking when he was under 21.**

Duane said that whenever he went to the dentist.

Joe would give him the “gas” and then tell him it was "truth gas"

And said that he used it on all his brothers and sisters to find out if they ever drank or smoked.

I think he must have worked out a deal with my parents – lol

**My sister sissy was telling** me about one time when she went to the dentist because her teeth were hurting.

Joe told her he needed to pull her back mullers out.

Joe left the room and then when he came back –

he placed a book on her chest and started reading from it as he worked on her teeth –

He said this was the first time he had done this and wanted to make sure he did it right.

**I'm really glad Jasmin became a dentist when she did**

Because it seemed like every time Joe would work on a family member

Something would crack that shouldn't crack.

Something would break that shouldn't break.

He would always say. "This is amazing Rene."

This only happens to family.

And I'm thinking that's not a good sign Joe.

Because our family is Like huge.

**Several days before Joe passed away** - He asked to see mom.

It was hard on Joe.

But he needed to do it.

He knew the time was getting close.

We had to practically carry Joe down the stairs and put him in a chair.

But - when he saw his mom?

You would have never guessed how bad he was.

**He gleamed and he put on the biggest smile and said –**

Well hi there!

They truly had a special bond!

**Joe was a great family man.**

A great parent.

As a parent - you want to be a person that your kids would look up too.

A role model for them.

To show your kids that they are loved and...

how to love.

To show them a good work ethic

To show them how to be a good person.

And how to live life.

Joe was that parent and that person.

He was always happy whenever you were around him

You could tell He had a lot to live for.

For His family

For His friends

For His patients

For His staff who were his extended family

Towards the end - Joe gave it everything he could

and then..... he gave some more.

Just to spend one more day.

One more hour.

One more minute with his family.

Joe knew he was going to die

He wanted to live.

But I believe Joe was prepared to die.

Joe had many conversations with Bishop Eugene Gerber.

The Bishop had married Joe and Sandra.

The Bishop visited with him whenever he was in town and was able too.

They had many good conversations in person and by phone.

I feel at peace knowing that the Bishop had a hand in leading Joe to heaven.

So, Jasmin, Shae, Sandra, John, Harper and Lola.

I know Joe took great pride in taking care of all of you.

It was his proudest role.

Please... Take comfort in knowing he is still taking care of you.

Watching over you.

But

just from a different place.

Now I would like to introduce to you Joes best friend of over 40 years.

A fellow Dentist and partner with Joe in his lecture programs.

Dr. Mark Troilo.