

The Naming of Maggie May Downey

Date: 24.07.2011



Introduction

Good morning everyone, I would like to welcome you to the naming ceremony of the daughter of Sam and Scott. We meet here today, to take part, together in a simple ceremony. We do so for a number of reasons. Sam and Scott wish to express their joy to you on the birthday of Maggie. They want to welcome her into their family unit, and to the wider family of their friends and relatives.

This welcome to little Maggie will remind them that from now on a great deal of their lives will be involved in caring for her, guiding her development, and nurturing her growth as a human being. Just as they wish you to share their joy, they also ask you to share their responsibility.

It is certain that the more love this child receives, the more she will benefit in her life, and the more love in turn she will be able to give others. The more people to whom this child relates, the more balanced and rich her growth will be.

So your presence at this celebration today is appreciated, as will be your interest and involvement in the years ahead.

We reflect on the potential of this child, and on the wonderful possibilities that lie ahead as I share a reading with you adapted from A Recipe for Dreaming by Bryce Courtenay.

Reading

A Recipe for Dreaming by Bryce Courtenay

Nature formed you with perfect feet and hands and a heart that beats non-stop, sometimes for a hundred years.

You were made complete.

You have inherited a thousand years of wisdom, skill, poetry, song, all the sunrises and sunsets of knowledge past. You are the sum of all the people who went before you.

You are a refinery of all inherited intellectual wealth, the full flood of antecedent wisdom is piped and stored within you – how to climb the highest mountain, slay the biggest monster, how to survive fear and how to summon your own courage and take pride in your wonderful intelligence. Inside you can dream it, you can do it, because the instinctive knowledge of how to succeed is already programmed within you waiting to be turned on, it is waiting to flow like a river as you come on stream.

Acknowledgement of Grandparents

It is not always possible for grandparents to involve themselves in the development of their grandchildren - but when they do it is a great bonus and blessing. The important role played by grandparents is the passing on of cultural values to children. They assist children to find their identity and their inner security - and to integrate themselves into society.

The special relationship of trust and mutual enjoyment which develops between child and grandparent is something very special. Through this relationship children learn the lineage, their history and many values and skills.

For this reason Sam and Scott wish to recognise and express their gratitude that Maggie's grandparents Kaye and David, great grandparents Pop and Beryl are here today. Unfortunately Barry cannot be here as he is in Queensland and we also wish to acknowledge Maggie's Nan Jenny who is no doubt watching over us all today.

Affirmation by Godparents

An important tradition on these occasions is the responsibility accepted by godparents. They undertake a special and lifelong interest in the welfare of their godchild, and assume a more-than-ordinary responsibility in the event the parents are no longer able to look after the child.

I now ask the godparents: Are you Andrew and Trish, Scott and Sarah willing to accept this important responsibility?

Godparents: We are.

Andrew and Trish, Scott and Sarah, will you stay close to Maggie?

To the best of your ability, will you guide her through life so that she may know the best way you know?

Will you touch her with your wisdom?

Will you try and be a good influence by your own way of living, and encourage her to observe worthy principles of living, and decent treatment of her fellow-human beings and her world?

Godparents: We will,

Naming Ceremony

Sam and Scott, what name have you chosen for the child?

Parents: Maggie May Downey

We all agree to call you Maggie May Downey, so therefore we name you Maggie May Downey. We wish you long life and happiness, in a loving and peaceful world. May you bring joy to your parents, your Godparents, your Grandparents and to all of us – your family and friends. May you be one who makes this world a better and happier place.

Your parents chose this name with love and they give it to you with love. This name they give to you to accompany you throughout your life with all the qualities of strength and goodness your name implies.

I now invite Sam to say a few words on the significance of the name chosen for Maggie.

Sam: Dear Maggie May, your name has a very special meaning, it was made famous in a song by Rod Stewart and it is in loving memory of your Nan who loved to listen to him. Your nan used to love singing she taught Mackenzie the words to "Maggie" before she turned 3 "Rod on".... Your arrival was a gift to our family at a time of enormous loss. You were just what Mackenzie, Daddy and I needed. Your happy, cheeky, determined, energetic personality completes our little family :)
We love our girls very much

I would now like to share a reading titled "Dads and Daughters" by Liana Preston

Reading

Dads and Daughters by Liana Preston

Each love in life is precious
With a meaning all its own,
Like the bond of Dad to daughter,
And a strength of love that's grown.

He's there in times of trouble,
And when she needs a special friend,
He's the figure she relies on,
And on whom she can depend.

She gives to him that something
Only fathers can portray,
Of a love so pure and endless,
And of joy in every way.

From the first steps ever taken,
To her walking down the aisle,
He views her with unending pride,
And a love that makes him smile.

Dads are very special
And no one ever takes their place,
Though many loves can come and go,
They'll always have that cherished space.

Final Declaration

This ceremony will in no way inhibit Maggie from seeking the truth during her life and any future commitments to religious or non-religious beliefs. In fact, it is our duty in the coming years to present to her a broad and balanced view of life and encourage her in the virtues we all agree as good – integrity, honesty, concern, fairness and love towards others.

I conclude this ceremony by summarising the thought that has been the theme today. Let us all be aware that our lives are interrelated, that this ceremony will strengthen the affection and the friendship we all have for one another, but especially the relationship now established by each and every one of us with Maggie.

Maggie, may life's richest joys and blessings be yours. May you grow in health of body and mind to full adulthood, and may it be your good fortune to play some worthy part in making life more pleasant for those whose paths you cross.

Family and friends, I have the honour to present Maggie May Downey.

Signing of Certificate

I now invite the parents and godparents to join me as we sign the certificate.

Conclusion

I give me great pleasure to present the naming certificates to the parents and Godparents of Maggie. Please join me in congratulating Maggie, Sam and Scott and also our Godparents Trish and Andrew, Sarah and Scott. Thank you to everyone for your attendance here today and to Sam and Scott for asking me to conduct the ceremony today. I now invite you to come forward and congratulate the parents and godparents.