

Jake and I were best friends throughout high school. We went by the tandem duo of Jake^2. There was rarely a day when you couldn't find us hanging out after football practice or cruising town in the sube, we were pretty much inseparable. Our friendship was so strong we didn't mind spending every minute of the day with each other. We went camping, hiking, skiing, hunting, fishing, played football together, always the two of us. The numerous mud bogging, hill climbing and car jumping trips strengthened our friendship to a level that nobody could understand or compare to. Even with as strong of friendship as we had college took a toll on us. Our busy lives had interfered with our once great friendship. I never knew if our friendship would ever be the same again and I began to except its fate. I began to feel as if there was a piece of me missing. I thought that chapter in my life was over. That is until about a month ago when I received a call out of the blue. It was Jake; he was calling to see how I was and wanted to tell me that he wanted to hang out again, just like old times. After I hung up the phone I started to cry. They were tears of joy because I knew that I had my old best friend back. The Jake I used to know. That hole in my heart was once again filled. I realized that a friendship that strong could never fade no matter what the circumstances. Even though Jake is now gone that piece of me is still filled because I know that he will always be with me. I know that he is here right now. He is now my saint, he is my guardian angel. Knowing that I wanted to tell him a few things that I think he should know about. Hey man, thanks for all the good memories, I know that I will never forget them for as long as I live. We sure had a lot of fun with that car, maybe a little too much fun. We could sit here for hours and talk about them but we don't have time for that. I also wanted to thank you for making me the person I am today, without you I wouldn't be the same person I am today. Summarizing Jake into three words is impossible but I tried to the best of my ability. These are the words I could think of: intensity, determination and love. Anybody who has ever played a sport with of against Jake knows just how intense he is. He was always the guy trying to pump you up or get in your face. His intensity would always rub off on others making them just as intense as he was. Next is determination, Jake could do anything that he set his mind to. He could do anything from school work to climbing hill 57 in the sube. I just happened to experience more of the crazy fun stuff. With him by my side I know I can do anything I could ever imagine. Finally love, Jake was filled with heart and love. He was the kind of kid who would give you the shirt off of his back if needed. He loved his friends with true compassion. Most of all though, he loved his family, he was a leading role in a very tight knit family. I can only hope to love and be loved even half as much as what was in him. His passion for fun and adventure showed me just how living is supposed to be done. I know he lived everyday like it was his last, no regret... that was the Jacob Beck lifestyle. I can only attempt to follow in his footsteps and try my best to be like him. I'm going skydiving soon, so Jake, you better be with me with that. Last of all and most importantly, thanks for being my friend through the years. Thanks for sharing your amazing life with me. Thanks for giving me the opportunity to better myself by your example. Thanks you so much I will never forget that.

Now Doug, Rita and Kyle...I love you all so much, you have all been like family to me. I want to thank you for raising such an amazing son. I know you are so proud of him, which you should be. I wouldn't change a single thing about him. He was my best friend and my brother. I want to thank you for all the great memories together. I loved

every minute of it. I know Jake can never be replaced but I want to let you know that I will always be there for you. Doug I know you lost your best friend but I will be there to ski by your side on those cold winter mornings. Rita, you lost your baby but I will be there to spend hours talking to you about life and love. Kyle you have lost one amazing brother but you have another one right here. I'll always be there for you guys. I will always miss my friend but he will always be in my heart. I know I'll see him again someday and when that day comes, lookout, we're going to show heaven how to have fun the Jake way. Thank you