

## Erin Quinn Remarks

Good evening, I am Erin Quinn, Director of Athletics, 1986 graduate of Middlebury College, former lacrosse and football coach, and former fellow employee of the Equipment Room with Peter Kohn.

I spent a lot of time with Peter as a student, working in the Equipment Room and through my coaching career, so I felt a lot of pressure to try to capture all I know and love about Peter in order to honor him properly. Do I tell stories about shaving, or explosions of chocolate cake and nachos, or the infamous custard in the back pocket story? Do I talk about the stubborn Peter yelling “shoot the ball”, the one who would inevitably remind me with a pat on the back that I may have wanted to call a time out when the game was slipping away, the savant Peter winning all matches of wits? Instead, I am going to focus on one aspect of Peter’s life that was perhaps most important to him... and that is Peter’s faith. If you knew Peter you know that he lived to serve...-he served us, but most importantly to him, he did so in the name of “God and Jesus”- as Peter would say. So, I thought the best way I could honor Peter was to talk about his faith, and to do so I ask you to imagine my story not through the lens of your own faith, but through the lens of Peter and his faith.

So, Peter, sadly for us, passes away and arrives at the gates of heaven, which have been opened by the other Peter in anticipation of our friend’s arrival. Our Peter stops at the gate, and St. Peter bows deferentially and welcomes Peter to enter, which he does, replying to St. Peter that he didn’t want to enter without being asked, because he didn’t want to be big-headed about it. As he passes St. Peter, Peter sees what he thinks might be the missing “Kohn Dome” which was used to identify the player designated as Peter’s Keeper. Peter looks up at St. Peter who offers a smile. Could it be..., is St. Peter a “Keeper of the Kohn”? Peter shakes that off and finds himself in the moment he has been preparing for for years; he stands before Jesus who welcomes him with open arms. Peter falls at his feet, but is helped up by Jesus who tells Peter, “my son, rise up, you are home”. I have so much to ask you, Father, but first can you please tell me what is this ringing in my ear? “That is your hearing aid, Peter, you won’t need that anymore”.

Jesus, asks Peter, I tried to serve you well, how did I do? Peter, I couldn’t have asked more of you. I presented you with greater obstacles than I do for many, **and** I blessed you with gifts. You always chose to use your gifts and consistently overcame your obstacles. I placed abundance in front of some, only to have them see scarcity and feel bitterness. On the other hand, you always saw abundance and felt gratitude with the smallest of gifts. I gave many greater physical gifts, only to have them abused or ignored, while you made the most of your skills, chasing balls, cleaning cleats, and toweling off those blessed with those physical gifts. Most importantly Peter I give everyone the capacity to love... yet many choose envy, greed, or hate. You took the capacity to love and grew it beyond what I could have ever hoped for. Look at your friends gathered in your name and in the name of love in Mead Chapel, Peter. “Jesus”, Peter asked, “what are the lights I see down there”, that is the gift of love you have given to each of your friends, Peter, for now it resides in each of them. So, yes, you have served me well. You

have done your job and given love to your friends, it is now up to them to decide what they will choose to do with that love.

With that, Peter and Jesus embrace, it is the Peter Kohn embrace, not a back slapping man-hug, but the embrace when Peter folds into you, releases to you, and you hold him. As Peter looks up, a choir of angels appear behind Jesus and among them are the faces of Jerry Schmidt, Joe Kaufman, Benno, Matt Slautterback, Betty Crilly, and of course his beloved Mother. Peter is enveloped by his loved ones, and he knows he is home. God Bless Peter Kohn, our dear friend. Thank you.