



The Takeoff- November 2019

There are no words to describe the loss of a sibling, the best way to describe it is like losing a limb. There is no other love like the love of a brother. I've felt stuck in anger. I was angry with why God could let this happen. I was angry that this could happen to my sibling. A sibling is the first friend you make in life. Zach was 15 months younger than I was, but we were always there for each other, growing up with him was one of the greatest blessings of my life. When I think back, I can remember Zach always being by my side, my truest friend, even if I didn't see it that way then. In high school, I was able to drive first and go off campus for lunch. I remember Zach always asking me to tag along, so here I was bringing my little brother to lunch with my friends. When my daughter Gabriella was born, Zach dropped everything to make sure he was there the next morning to meet her. He just wanted to be a part of my life, in any way that he could.

One of the items I kept of my brothers, was his hoodie to honor his friend Sam who passed away, it was one of his most beloved items. The hoodie says, "Don't sweat the small stuff, it's all small stuff." It makes me proud to wear it because it reminds me of the type of friend my brother was. Zach wanted to make sure his buddy Sam wasn't forgotten; in that same way, he always made a point to make everyone feel valued and important. He loved his family and friends and there isn't anything he wouldn't do for the people he loved.

After his death, the most important lesson I'm left with is that life is about spending time with the ones you love and enjoying every moment because tomorrow is not guaranteed. As the hoodie says, "It's all small stuff", but in another context, it is the small stuff that I miss most about Zach's absence. I hope that I can teach my kids that time spent with family and friends is the most valuable investment we can make in this life. My hope for everyone is to be a little bit more like Zach. "Be the things you loved most about the people who are gone."

-Candice Capra
November 4, 2019

