

Thank you Hockey Hall of Fame! Wow – what a show. And to think, I thought representing my dad on the red carpet at the premier for the movie miracle was a big deal. A lot of people have been asking what my father would have said if he were here today. I don't know exactly what he would have said but I do know he would have been extremely honored, appreciative and humbled to share the night with Mr. Duff, Mr. Hotchkiss and the great Patrick Roy.

Looking back at my father's life in hockey always brings me great joy. However, I hate to say this – but I used to get frustrated and at times actually be a bit embarrassed with all the things he did and didn't do. Selfishly, I constantly wanted him badly to be in the game – specifically an NHL head coach. It was always so much fun being a coach's kid – with all the perks, money, and fame. However, the older I get the more I appreciate what he did. In this world of hockey we all live in today, everyone seems to be only concerned with the almighty dollar and looking out only for themselves. I am now proud to say that I had a father who stood up for causes he felt to be more important than money. His life was not about materialism, celebrity, trophies and medals. It was about personal integrity, honesty and making the game we all love better. I think of all the opportunities he walked away from solely because of principle.

I don't know too many people in this world who would **refuse** to accept cash under the table while coaching in Europe or **accept** a D2 college job paying \$20k and not applying for numerous NHL openings solely to carry out the recently passed John Mariucci's wish for more D1 programs in the state of MN. Who would **walk** away from an NHL coaching post because of management's refusal to remove a "cancerous" player, or because one of his hall fame scouts was referred to as the wrong name. How many people **coach** a foreign country's Olympic Team simply for the love of the Olympic Spirit or **decline** the opportunity to light the Olympic torch in Salt Lake City with his 1980 players to honor a previous commitment to speak at a local VFW? How about **turn** down a dream job to be united with Glen Sather and the NYR to spend time with 5 preschool grandkids. Who would do these things? My father did and I couldn't be more proud. Most people will remember him as an American hero who coached the 1980 Olympic team, but to me he was a hero well beyond that two week stint in Lake Placid.

In summation I would like to say that when I think of all the celebrations that took place over my dad's career the one I will always remember was the one that took place during the gold medal ceremony 1980 when Mike Eruzione was up on the podium and called his 19 team-mates to join him. Now, thanks to the final scene in the movie Miracle, I will never forget that image of that team collectively pointing their fingers towards the sky. As you will recall, my father was not present. No one seems to know exactly where he was at that time – including me.

What I do know that he was in the building somewhere at peace with himself enjoying the moment. Well, here we are 26 years later, celebrating another memorable event – an event that no doubt is crowning jewel in his career. Having passed away three years ago, my dad is obviously not with us physically. However, like in 1980, I know he is in the building, this time in spirit - again at peace with himself and enjoying the moment. So as he is watching, I now would like to take a page out of Mike Eruzione's book and metaphorically summons the following people spiritually up on the podium to share in the moment. These are the ones responsible Herb's wonderful induction.

Herb Brooks Sr.

Arnie Bauer

The Boys of Hastings Pond

Rube Gustafson and The 1955 Johnson Governors

John Mayasich

Murray Williamson

John Mariucci

Paul Geil

Glen Sonmor

Bill Butters, Mike Polich, Pat Phippen, Bill Baker, and the rest of the MN Gophers

Art Kaminsky

Lou Nanne

Warren Strelow

Craig Patrick

Mike Eruzione

Jim Craig

The Pittsburgh Penguins

Neal Broten

Jack Blatherwick

Barry Beck and the New York Rangers

Larry Hendrickson

Chuck Grillo

Lou Nanne

Chris Chelios and 2002 Olympic Team

Together we raise our fingers towards the sky and salute you - Herb Brooks - as teammate, friend, inspiration, coach, mentor, father, and grandfather. Thank you.