

Mr. Wiesiek Roguski

May 21, 1934 – April 1, 2018



A Eulogy

Delivered in Warsaw, Poland

Wednesday, April 11, 2018

William Favre Slater, III

His American Son

Dear Joanna and Friends,

All of us know what a wonderful Husband, Father, Teacher, and SCUBA Diver, and Friend that Wiesiek Roguski was. He still is. Wiesiek's love, charm, and wisdom live will live forever in all our spirits.

I want to share with everyone what he meant to me as my dear and precious Father-in-Law, and as the one of the three most Extraordinary and Inspiring Human Beings I ever met. My lovely Bride, Joanna and her wonderful Mother, Wiesia are the other two.

First, I believe that God providentially blessed me and brought Joanna and me together via the Internet. In December 2000 after a six month visit to explore Chicago and other parts of America, Joanna agreed to marry me, with her Parents Blessings, of course, and a few weeks later she brought me home for my first Polish Christmas with my new Family. We all loved and adored each other at first sight. I am so proud to tell you that my Polish Family, with their unconditional and unwavering love, support, and encouragement, blessed me, embraced me and loved me. They quickly became the family I always wanted, and the center of my life. As a result, I kept my promise to her parents and brought Joanna back home to Warsaw every Christmas since 2000. For us, the Roguski Home in Warsaw was the only place to be at Christmas.

So about Wiesiek: I absolutely adored everything about him. I loved his charm, his wit, his wisdom, his sense of humor, his intelligence, his style, his hard work, his creativity, and just how he made me feel like someone really important and part of the family.

Together, Wiesia's, Wiesiek's and Joanna's complete acceptance of me, with all my strengths, faults, weaknesses, and quirks, made me feel empowered and encouraged to make my greatest career and personal accomplishments. When I married Joanna, I had one expired computer certification and no graduate degrees. Today, I have 80 certifications and three graduate degrees. And in the evenings after work, I am an Adjunct Professor and I teach technical courses at two local universities. I have taught as an adjunct professor at the Illinois Institute of Technology for 10 years. I am also a published author. None of these accomplishments would have been possible without the extraordinary love and constant support and encouragement of Wiesia, Wiesiek, and Joanna. In addition, you can actually see the Wiesiek's love and kindness reflected from me in the faces and lives of the hundreds of students I have taught since 2001. So Wiesiek changed the world in so many ways for the better, and most people do not even realize it.

Here are three quick short stories about Wiesiek that left last impressions on me:

When I first came to Poland in December 2000, he took me to the Warsaw Royal Castle, the Palace of Science and Culture, to the Museum of Military, to the Summer Palace, and other places of importance in Polish Culture and Polish History. Seeing Poland through his eyes and passion helped me understand the significance of Poland's role in European and World History. I got it and from that moment on, I proudly told everyone who would listen: "I love Poland. Poland is my adopted country."

Here is the second story I want to share with you: On December 24, Christmas Eve in December 2000, Wiesiek was explaining the significance of the 12 dishes and the straw underneath the table cloth. He said: "The straw underneath the table cloth represents the straw in the manger where Christ was laid at His Birth, and in Poland, we believe that if a stranger knocks on the door on Christmas Eve, we should open in the door and invite them in and seat them at the place were the straw is underneath the tablecloth." My immediate reaction was to cry and cry bitterly. Wiesiek and his wife, Wiesia were disturbed and afraid that they had hurt or offended me. I explained that they had NOT offended me, but that since I spent the previous 9 Christmas Holidays alone, feeling unwanted and unloved, and this was especially meaningful for me. I also explained that the difference from where I had been to being here with my new family was as much of a shock as the young person who places his cold hand under very warm water. Wiesiek's response: "Well that's it. It must have been *destiny* that Bill would be part

of our Family.” I knew that that I was Home with my new Family and that God had me right where He wanted me.



Finally, in matters of dress and behavior, Wiesiek always wanted to make sure I did the right thing, including details like wearing the proper color shirt when I went to places like the U.S. Embassy in Warsaw in 2004, or at Wiesia’s Funeral in September 2017. One could take this as being bossy or too fussy, but I took it as him not wanting me to make a fool of myself. He was always protecting me and looking after me the way a good Father protects and looks after his son.

In closing, I believe strongly that we were blessed beyond our wildest dreams to have such a magnificent people as Wiesiek and Wiesia in our lives. They were the closest things to an Angelic Beings that I ever met. Wiesiek and Wiesia made us all better for having had them in our lives. We will always be grateful for their love and guidance and for the great positive impact that they had on our lives.

Rest in Peace, dear Wiesiek. We will always love you with all our Hearts, and we never forget you, nor will we ever overcome the pain of your loss. But we have Faith in Christ Jesus that God through His Infinite Kindness, Love, Mercy, and Grace will reunite us for Eternity in our Home in Heaven.



Kocham Cie, Wiesiek! Do Widzenia!



Wiesiek and Wiesia Roguski
Together again, and Forever!

