

4 March 2006

Dear Bo and Susan,

I so wanted to stay and do a video thing for Bo. But Jed and I had to race back here and help with silly, silly event...

But I wanted the Speaking Stick for a minute.

I met Bo mostly in his brief career as a mortgage guy. I remember thinking he was very friendly and professional, and did indeed have a great smile. I also remember thinking -- in that fleeting way you do cuz life is always one big rush -- that he was especially nice in a different way. And now that I think about it I do remember. I see what folks were talking about today on that clean, clean hillside, so brushed with the winds and the brittle edge of cold tears.

I remember a silvery, intense sweetness about him. A rare dichotomous combination of sincerity and earnestness mixed with passion and dedication. Rare.

I am not family, but in an odd welcoming way -- that seems to be part of how your family works -- I do feel like a bit of family, because of all you guys have done for us here. And so, feeling a bit like family, I was very very proud and grateful today.

For the consummate beauty of it. For the day, the sun, the wind - our gifts of Maryland countryside and a tribe who so appreciated those gifts that having a service in February outdoors was the absolutely most natural thing to do. For Bo getting up there and Matt - awesome Matt. He and his friends - for young men who do truly have courage - who can transcend all the macho bullshit they get fed and stand in front of 250 plus grown-ups telling of love and history, admitting hurt. I am grateful for the intelligence of the words. The honest need to share - *to educate* - about someone so special whose legacy is precious and should not be lost. I loved hearing Boomer keen, watching the force of your son's spirit in the wind - lifting the tent roof, kissing the prayer flags.

My prayers have been there since I heard and they will be there for as long, as long, as long...

I plant in the spring.

Love,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Jed', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.