

FINAL FAREWELL TO DANIEL VINCENT CAPUANO, CFD

FROM HIS SON, NICK AGE 12

First of all my dad was the best guy I knew. The main thing that means to me is that he cares for me and my family because he gives us a lot of love and he gives us a roof over our heads. He also has food on the table and sends me to Catholic school because he loves me.

He also saves people who he doesn't know. Another thing that my dad used to do was be a hard worker. He always did a lot of jobs and chores. I feel like he takes after my grandpa, whose name is Mike. Mike had to take care of all his siblings after his mother died.

Daniel took us places such as Mexico, Punta Cana, Canada, Florida, and any other places. He loved to watch me play hockey. He was a well-liked man. He really loves Paco the dog. Dan really loved my mom, Julie, me, Andrew, Amanda, Paco, friends, other family, the Chicago Fire Department, and the Evergreen Park Fire Department.



FINAL FAREWELL TO DANIEL VINCENT CAPUANO, CFD

FROM HIS SON, ANDREW - AGE 13

My dad was a great dad, husband, brother, godfather, son, and role model. I really look up to my dad. He would teach me how to do things like cook, mow the lawn, clip the lawn, be a gentleman, put others first, and be the best I could be.

He was loving, kind, funny, respectable, Dad and everything a son could want. I remember when I would be on the ice he would do funny motions with his hands to show when to check our opponent.

He cared about his family. My dad would get us kids stuff we wanted and worked extra shifts so we could go to Catholic Schools.

He would always say to me "Someday when I am gone, you will be the man of the house, and I want you to take care of your mother, brother, and sister." I would always respond "Yes, I will because you taught me everything I will need". He would then pat me on the back and say "that's a good young man".

I always want to be like him. I want my confirmation name to be after his middle name and his grandfather's name. Then I will have his name in mine: Andrew Daniel Vincent Capuano



FINAL FAREWELL TO DANIEL VINCENT CAPUANO, CFD

FROM HIS DAUGHTER, AMANDA - AGE 16

My first memory of my dad was sitting on his knee at Evergreen Park Fire House with a bag of popcorn. It was a sunny day and I was probably only three years old. I can't remember why we were there or what was going on.

All I remember is taking that photo with him.

Then I remember being 7 at Great Bear Lodge and swimming with him in the lazy river. I thought it would be funny to try to swim away from him. I'd gotten maybe 10 feet away from him when 2 older girls knocked me over in my tube. I couldn't breathe or swim. I was caught up in the current of the lazy river which was pretty strong for someone just out of floaties. Next thing I remember my dad grabbed me out of the water.

My dad was someone who was always there for us. Back in the blizzard in 8th grade, he took a train down to see me compete at State. We got snowed in at the Hilton and he wanted to get on the road before everybody else. I had forgotten my coat in the hallway of the hotel. My dad made me wrap towels over my shoulders so I didn't freeze. He also tried to give me his jacket. When we dropped him off at the train station and headed home. His first thought was to call my mom and warn her of the black ice.

Back in 8th grade when I dislocated my knee, and Dad was at the fire house. He took the car and came to see me soon as he could. That is just how my dad was. He put everyone before himself. For my sweet 16, Dad went to Mariano's and got a cake made for me. It was strawberry with icing that said, "Happy 16th Birthday Amanda".

Last Thursday my dad picked me up. It was just me & him because my mom was at work and both boys were at school. It was 1:40 so we had a whole hour before Andrew and Nick got out of school. We hid Christmas presents.



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We picked some really good hiding places. The last time I really got to spend time with him was Friday. I was going to a chorus concert rehearsal. By the time we got out it was late. He told me he would pick me up. He was upset with me because I was waiting alone in the dark by the Saint Xavier University softball fields. He was upset because he loved me and didn't think it was safe for me to be alone.

I went to the St. Rita hockey game that night. He was going to go with me, but went to a hockey party with his friends. He was going to give me money to get ice cream with my friends after the game but in the chaos of the night it didn't happen. I saw him for five minutes on Saturday. In the morning I ran out the door to a banquet then my mom picked me up and took me straight to geometry tutoring.

I came home to a hot dog and fries he left for me. That night I went to my grandma's to make Christmas cookies while my parents went to the fireman ball. They had such a good night. When they got home it was late. His last words were to tell me to go to bed. I didn't talk to him Sunday and I'll never get over that. I wish I had one more phone call with him just so I can say goodbye. I wish he could see how many people came to support us. I wish you could see how many people love you, Daddy.



FINAL FAREWELL TO DANIEL VINCENT CAPUANO, CFD

FROM HIS WIFE, JULIE

Well Dan, I never in a million years thought I'd be writing this to you. We were supposed to be on a beach in Florida right now, enjoying a drink, under a tent by the ocean, spending time together. We were going to relax and enjoy each other without any stress for about six days, and then come home and celebrate Christmas together. Instead, I'm here with you, but definitely not in the way I wanted to be.

We've been married for 20 years, and I wanted to be with you for 100 more years. We met before we were even able to drink...at least legally. We got married at the age of 22, and thought it would be smart to move into a house right away... even though neither of us had ever lived away from our parents. That would probably explain why we tried to cut the spine out of the turkey for Thanksgiving because we thought it was the turkey's neck. Apparently the neck was inside the turkey already cut... but who knew?

That would also explain why while trimming bushes, you cut through the electric cord and knocked out the power to the entire house. Remember when you thought I was going to cut your chicken off the bones for you because that's the way your mother used to fix it for you at home?... or how we debated about how to fold the laundry or which way the toilet paper roll should face (I still say I'm right about that one).

We have such great memories together, Danny, but I would give anything in the world to have you back so we could make lots more. We have three beautiful, intelligent, and talented children together. It breaks my heart into a million little pieces to know that you will never get to walk Amanda down the aisle, or sit with me while we watch Andrew and Nick play hockey.

I am broken inside by losing you, Dan. I'm just not sure what I'm going to do. I will miss your handsome face, your funny sense of humor, your loving touch, your kisses, our conversations... I will miss everything that our lives were together. You were my rock, my strength, and my everything. You were my first true love, and you will always be my love. You were my amazing husband and my best friend, a loving father, and a dedicated firefighter. You were everything to me, and I will love you always and forever.

