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ANATOMICAL GIFT PROGRAM:  
ANNUAL MEMORIAL SERVICE  
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>> Good morning everyone. We are going to get started in just a couple minutes.

>> Hi everyone my name is Mariam Chekmeyan and I am a first year medical student and I will be your host today. On behalf of the class of 2022 we want to start by welcoming you all here to the University of Massachusetts medical school and thanking you so much for coming. It is kind of tricky getting here if you don't come here often but we are so grateful you are all here. We are going to start by showing you a video that was produced by members of the class of 2022 and it is featuring a poem written by an anatomical donor and addressed to medical students.

(Video).

(Music)

This is my body, the shell of my being, which is given to you in final offering to the world. I share the elements of life, from these old bones, these ligaments, my sinews and my nerves. May life force that ran in me shine forth once more and pass to you. The knowledge and the power that helped sustain the miracle of life.

We would like to thank all of us our donors. Our first patients, our teachers for their generous contribution. (Music)

>> Message of the poem has resonated with our class and as we study we try to keep its message in our hearts and we are honored by the gift given to us and we hope to honor our donors by giving back and helping our patients in the future. With that I would like to introduce the first speaker of the day, Dean provost and executive deputy Chancellor, Dean Flotte  
(Applause.)

>> TERRENCE R. FLOTTE MD: So first of all thank you very much Mariam and I wanted to thank all the students that put their efforts in to organize the event and let me add my words of welcome to all of you. To the family members of friends and loved ones of our donors. This is event is really put on by our students for you. And there are a couple of very important purposes of it. So one, and the first that I hope you can see and feel is that we like to share and remember and honor your loved ones and I am hoping we can reassure you about the level of respect and professionalism with which their bodies have been treated during their time in our care here as anatomical donors.

We are very careful about who becomes part of our medical school community. Meaning the students, and I think you will see that through the course of the morning. We select students who already have the key qualities of being physicians and professionals and we know you will see your loved one's remains have been treated with respect and by people who are high quality individuals. We also wanted in this event to enable our students to be reinforced in that sense, really that by seeing you all here and hearing some of your stories, that will reinforce the humanism of the medical profession among our young physicians as they are in training here.

And finally and again we want to thank you so much for your original offering here and especially for the donors' original offering of their bodies for the education of our students. This whole process of learning human anatomy but also learning how one interacts with people as a professional, it really begins with their relationship with your donors. And so we really owe you and them a tremendous debt of gratitude for that.

So with that again I will thank you all for coming and turn it back to the students for the rest of the program  
(Applause.)

>> MARIAM CHEKMEYAN: Please welcome Bridget Yang will be reciting an original poem.

>> BRIDGET YANG: I would like to share a poem I wrote after our first meeting with the donors entitled "Dear Anonymous Donor."

You around the time when Fall starts to bloom,  
When the air begins to chill,  
A sensation on my skin that followed into the room.  
They told me you would be waiting, lying serenely supine  
The covers draped over you – does your skin feel  
The autumn air like mine?

In my navy apron, falling almost to my feet  
I hovered over your body, ready to meet  
I thought I had been prepared all this time  
Yet I was not expecting the strength of your presence.  
I had only seen plastic anatomical models,  
With symmetric proportions and spotless parts  
But you were more than what I had learned from books –

You were perfectly human, each groove, an art  
As I looked closer I could feel that there was a story  
Dear Anonymous Donor, what were once your dreams, your worries?  
I stood in silence, wondering what you knew  
When you wrote us your handwritten message,

And how these details make you, you.  
In neat ink, your story printed across smoothened pages  
A cloth over your eyes held back stories throughout past ages  
It reminded me you had your own unique life,  
I will not forget your generosity; in my memories, you survive.

Thank you  
(Applause.)

>> MARIAM CHEKMEYAN: Our faculty speaker this morning is Dr. Giannaris an Assistant Professor in the division of translational anatomy and the director of the anatomy department in the development and structure and function course.  
(Applause.)

>> EUSTATHIA LELA GIANNARIS: Wow thank you. Thank you Mariam for the introduction. Good morning everyone. A warmest welcome to the families, loved ones and friends of our donors and welcome to Dean Flotte, the faculty and staff that are here and the students. I have missed you. Love you.

Thank you all for being here today for this special day of remembering, appreciation, celebration of our donors. It is an immense honor to have been invited and given the opportunity to address you all today. I have the privilege of directing the anatomy portion of the first year medical student course development structure

and function where I teach along this wonderful team here that you see of faculty. But also part of our team of educators are all of you here today Or perhaps some of you watching from afar and your loved ones, our anatomical donors. Who serve as the most esteemed yet silent teachers.

No words with adequately express the sincere appreciation, gratitude and respect for our gift donors and you think loved ones for this most selfless, generous and ultimate gift. Thank you

First I want to thank you for your patience. For waiting as your loved ones took on this last important role in educating our future doctors. The work we are tasked with doesn't happen overnight. Instead takes weeks, months and years. We are cultivating the next generation of physicians to treat patients and make discoveries. Thank you for the lessons you help us teach. These lessons don't just involve the human body, the muscles, bones, arteries and nerves and there are so many nerves.

The medical education that happens in the anatomy lab goes beyond the discipline of anatomy. While we want our future physicians to know about every aspect of our insides and outsides and how we are wired, and how we might differ from one another, it is important they take away from this journey an appreciation for life and death. Humility, uncertainty, respect, gratitude, professionalism, team work, and compassion.

These are key clinical skills no matter where our students' journey takes them. Whether they go on to be surgeons or primary care physicians much thank you for your partnership in this critical piece of their training. A piece that can't be taught from a textbook. Thank you for your commitment to being part of our team and touching the future.

There will continue to be advances in technology that enhance our work but nothing can compare to or replace exploring the marvels of the human body first hand or the skills gained from this experience with our anatomical donors. Thank you.

(Applause.)

>> MARIAM CHEKMEYAN: Now I would like to introduce Michelle Chang and Filia Van Dessel performing "A Thousand Years".

(Music)

(Applause.)

>> MARIAM CHEKMEYAN: Now we have Arianna Perry and Bronwyn Wada-Gill who will be reciting the names of our donors.

>> Ingrid, Donald, Ann, Gwen, Maureen, Paul, Michael C, Elsie J, Robert, Roger, Selma, Dorothy, Frances, Gail, John L, Vance, Elizabeth A, Mary P, Edwige, Elsie L, William, Denise, Thomas, Betty J, Eileen, Bernarda, Richard L, Edith, Ada, Gordon, Alfred, Richard R, David P, Mary Ellen, Emile, Joseph, Jean, Katie, Dorothea, David A, Janice, Esther, Mariel, Betty, Michael F, Marie, Helen G, Robert R, Alice, Harold, Joan, Harry E, Elizabeth F, Loretta, Jack, Doris, Kathleen E, Helen T, Ronald, Nils, Frank (Francisco) R, James, Joanne, Robert A, John R, Kathleen M, Fredrick, Michael W, Charles, Basil, Sharon, Nancy, Margot, William R.

>> MARIAM CHEKMEYAN: I would like to invite everyone to join us in a moment of silence honoring our donors. In memory of our donors the class

of 2022 has gifted a flowering tree that will be planted on the University of Massachusetts medical school campus and in addition, a tree will be planted for each donor in the White Mountain National Forest in New Hampshire.

With that I would like to introduce -- who is reciting the poem "when giving is all we have."

>> When giving is all we have by Alberto Rios. We give because someone gave to us. We give because nobody gave to us. We give because giving has changed us. We give because giving could have changed us. We have been better for it, we have been wounded by it, giving has many faces. It is loud and quiet, big though small. Diamond and wood nails. Its story is old, the plot worn and the pages too. But we read this book anyway over and again.

Giving is first and every time. Hand to hand. Mine to yours, yours to mine. You gave me blue, and I gave you yellow. Together we are simple green. You gave me what you did not have, and I gave you what I had to give. Together we made something greater from the difference.

(Applause.)

>> MARIAM CHEKMEYAN: We are honored also to have three family speakers with us today. First please welcome Nancy Bandman-Boyle.

>> NANCY BANDMAN-BOYLE: Thank you.

Good Morning! Thank you for affording me this opportunity at this Medical School Memorial Service to recount some thoughts about my mother, Elsie L. Bandman.

Let me start at her end, or nearly her end.

In 2012, one day out of the blue, Elsie announced she wished "to be useful even after death," and registered to become an anatomical donor. In 2016, Elsie, almost 96 years old, arrived at the realization that her circulatory system, could not be fixed by surgery or by prescription drugs. Her daily, lifelong efforts of exercise and diet choices that had worked for so many years could not stop the inevitable. Her life's end was waiting nearby. With her mental and diagnostic capabilities at full steam, Elsie chose to receive her remaining medical care from Hospice and she was brave. Her time remaining was used to sort through personal matters and she arrived at her death in peace. It was the same bravery she had when she left her family and her small-town Connecticut home at 18 years of age to enter Hartford Hospital's Nursing program. Immediately upon graduation in 1939, she enlisted in the U.S. Army Nurse Corps and was first stationed in England. It was the same bravery she employed to walk over recently killed soldiers two months after D-Day on Omaha Beach. Assigned to the 15th General Hospital, Elsie next served in France and Belgium, tending to American soldiers from the Battle of the Bulge and at times, even to the captured, injured German soldiers.

Her days were spent in surgery removing soldiers' eyes and limbs and she could only soothe their weeping by telling them that, "they would be loved by someone." Once, her own hospital was bombed and she survived when 25 of her company did not. When the war ended and with the aid of the GI bill, Elsie continued her education and obtained a doctoral degree in education. She rose through the ranks from bedside nursing to teaching at the college level, writing and publishing.

She was busy. Elsie had great amounts of drive for her professional development and maintained a packed personal agenda. Activities such as cooking or other leisure tasks were unimportant to her and relaxation was out of the question!

From 1952 to 1968, Elsie was a member of the teaching faculty at Montefiore Hospital's School of Practical Nursing. In fact, very, very early in my life, I showed great consideration for her career. I patiently waited for the class she was teaching to end and then, I caused her water to break. Her students put her in a taxi and I was born four carefree hours later. She was never off duty. When I was a young child walking with my mother, if she witnessed an accident, she would immediately call out, "I'm a nurse" as we rushed over to the injured person. To this day, I can still feel the tug of her hand pulling me and then enlisting me, to stop the bleeding of an elderly neighbor having recently fallen on an unforgiving concrete sidewalk.

Elsie taught psychiatric nursing at Hunter-Bellevue School of Nursing for 27 years. She was beloved by her students and appreciated by her colleagues. She shared her wisdom and best practices by publishing numerous articles in journals and received nationwide invitations to present guest lectures and workshops. Her tenacity and ever-present drive assisted in the development of the School's nursing program and she became one of the first writers for federal nursing grants.

Together with her husband, Professor of Philosophy, Bertram Bandman, Elsie co-authored three textbooks, that emphasized the vital role nurses played on the health care delivery team, the medical experiences of patients and the abundant ethical dilemmas in health care. Upon retirement, Elsie was recognized for her decades of teaching and for her contributions to the field of psychiatric nursing. She was busy. I even described her once as a hurricane. Elsie set a high bar for herself (and for those around her) to be "of use." Smelling flowers and tai chi exercises came only with a reluctant retirement at 71 years of age.

Elsie continued further learning by participating in a local "learning in retirement" group until her early nineties. She read 20-30 monthly health organization newsletters, any historical biography she could get her hands on and voraciously read two daily newspapers until four days before her death. Elsie was a life-long learner and she was busy. It is fitting she would choose to give her body to you in order that you may learn from it during your first year here at medical school. It was yet another way she could slip in one more activity to remain "busy."

I am sure Elsie would want me to thank you for giving her this last opportunity to be useful. Thank you.  
(Applause.)

>> MARIAM CHEKMEYAN: Thank you. Our next family speaker is Susan Hennasy  
(Applause.)

>> Hello everyone. And thank you for this beautiful beautiful tribute to people that we have lost and loved so much. I am here in honor of my

brother Joe. Joe Paul we called him. He was my oldest brother and his story is so totally different than Elsie's story. First of all, the first thing I want to say and I don't know if he would want me to tell you this, but he did request that when he died I do his eulogy and I did not do that so I feel I have to honor him today. By telling you he is an alcoholic but a functioning alcoholic for his entire life until he reached the age 65. I was certain he would never get sober. He was in so much denial he would never be able to do it.

And at the end of his life he decided as he lost everything... that he would go to treatment and the last ten years of his life was the most glorious life I have seen.

He was my oldest brother, ten years older than me. The oldest in the family. Sometimes a brother and sometimes a father. My mentor, no matter what the issue or what the problem and no matter how drunk he was, he was always always there for me and whatever the situation was, he could put a spin on the answer that someone else could come up with. He was smart but he never out did himself. He went at his own pace and if you had not like it he would tell you to piss off. He treated everyone the same. He did not care who you were, the President or someone laying in the street. He never put on airs for anyone. He was a man's man and a lady's man. All the women loved him and I never could understand it. But hey I am his sister.

(Laughter.)

He wasn't good with money. He would buy tickets for the whole family and friends to the theater and take us all to a fancy Boston restaurant and insist that he was paying. Not to be a hotshot, but when he really liked something he wanted everyone else to really like it too. He owned a copper company for many years and had many employees and he was very functional for many years.

But for example about liking things. He learned how to scuba dive and all of us had to take lessons. He learned how to golf and the next thing I know I am buying a pink golf bag with the cleats and hat. The whole family as well and he sent us all to lessons. He was determined to never marry or have children because she thought you had to have a good father to be a good father. But he loved my grandchildren like they were his own and they decided that to call him gruncle Joe because he was a granduncle and was grumpy a lot of the time.

He was a functional alcoholic, he could make me cry when someone else could. I never cried but when Joe said something to mean, not mean or rude but he could bring tears to my eyes in a second. I never in a million years thought he would get sober. I would go to bed every night wondering if tonight would be the night I would get the call. I am going to skip this part because it goes on too long. He called me one morning to say he was willing to go to help. He spent the full time there and he came to stay with me. He changed his entire way of life. Gave up his old friends and learned a whole new way of living through the AA program and he would come in in the morning singing zip a dee doo dah to the point that one of my grandkids gave him a Christmas present one year that said zip a dee doo dah through the page. Or he would say, isn't it beautiful today? He saw life as it really was. He was the oldest and he had to bring up all the kids behind him. I did not have a father, we were a victim of WW2. My father never met him until he was five years old so he did not have much to go on.

We all had the luck of having a father around if not around that much. We are an alcoholic family. It is by the way a family disease which you all really need to know. I don't know who worked on Joe but God bless you, I would love to see the

insides of him.

(Laughter.)

He came home one day... and said the doctor told me, I have the lungs of a 15 year old, he was 60, smoked his entire life and I thought I could believe that story as much as I can believe every other drinking story you have told me.

He ended up in elderly housing and ended up having nothing. He lost everything he had. He never worried about tomorrow, I would wonder how he was going to live and he did not worry about it. He wound up in elderly housing getting \$600 a month on social security and fell in love with the woman next door. She played the piano and that is what he loved. They sang together and joined a church choir with me. They came together -- they decided that would be their -- especially in Joe's situation.

One day I was baby-sitting my grandchildren, giving them breakfast and Joe says, I have decided what I am going to do with my body when I die. And I am like that is the first thing you say when you walk in the door. And he said there is an anatomical program and I thought that is the most wonderful thing you could do with your life. And although it has been difficult for me, I can't speak for my family, to know that he was just down the street from me. I always felt like a part of him was still alive. So I have been dealing with him still being alive for a year and a half. He died September 2017 and now I have his ashes and my family is going to Canada to bury him with the rest of my family.

I will say a few more things. Of course he got sick at the end due to -- he said we all have cancer in us but it depends on how much of your body you use and for him the cancer began and made him really sick at the end. And I was so lucky to have been a part of his living and his dying. I would sit with him every single day. The whole summer. The day he got sick was the day the children got out of school, through the whole summer, he was the bravest sickest person I have seen. People say as funerals, this guy was the best in the world -- but I have to tell you my brother was the best guy in the whole world. Everyone loved him. I loved him for probably more than I loved anyone in my whole life. I have children and grandchildren and you know, it is different. With a brother.... he is my brother. He was not heavy, he was just my brother.

I thought I would lose my mind when I lost him as I saw him steadily decline, I watched him fade away and saw how painful the time was and saw how brave he was in the base of it all. I saw him wide awake bleeding internally and knew he was doing it with such grace. Finally he was so worried about what would happen -- I already told you that. I know I will see you in Heaven and I know he has done plenty of atoning here the last ten years and I am so grateful to have known him.  
(Applause.)

>> MARIAM CHEKMEYAN: Thank you so much Susan. Our final family speaker is Holly Trahan  
(Applause.)

>> HOLLY TRAHAN: Good morning everyone and students. When I look out at the room I see thousands of memories and thousands of stories. So this is a little of the story of one man, my husband, also known as dad -- as known as -- and known as Mr. T to his students. He was a Downton Abbey fan and he cried at the most sappy movies. He sent the most sent mental supersized Valentines cards much he sang Les Mis in the shower totally off key and

passionately. His friend Carl said that he would laugh at any corny joke thrown his way.

My husband was a lover of basketball and tennis. Of the Red Sox and fishing, of oceans and rivers and the woods. He loved art and travel and Shakespeare and little kids and cats and all things French. He had the most positive optimistic Outlook on life of anyone I have known. He was a man of gentleness and warmth and spirituality and those things are really missing today.

He had a pure heart. And he was so loved. He was a lifelong Wooster County guy. He and his brother and sister grew up speaking French. His father and grandfather spent their working lives making glasses at the American optical company.

They saved enough to buy a two decker and they bought a small camp today in Cedar Lake in Sturbridge. There he learned to love swimming, boats and fishing, lifelong sources of happiness for him.

Encouraged by his father, he was the first in his family to have a chance at a further education. He went to Assumption Prep here and college and he became a teacher of English. First at the prep for ten years, and later at Westborough high for 27 years. He was only 45 when he had his first heart attack. He was rushed from the tennis court to U Mass Medical where a young doctor named Linda Pate saved his life.

Months later after your cardiac rehab program helped him become thinner and stronger, he ran a 5K race with a fellow heart attack survivor. He loved telling how the two of them picked up their favorite U Mass nurse -- I think he had a crush on her, and crossed the finish line with her even though she could have done it perfectly well by herself.

He spoke often about how his heart attack changed his life. Opening up to gratitude and awareness of the goodness of people. It also made him a lifelong fan of U mass medical. A few months before he had the second heart attack that would end his life at the age of 79, he and Dr. Pate hugged each other when she retired. She had been his cardiac specialist for 34 years. She helped give him 14 more years of teaching, about one thousand lives to touch, and after that 20 more years to enjoy a retirement of reading, travel, painting, fishing and friends and cats and grandchildren.

Even after retirement, he kept teaching. He developed mentorship programs for beginning teachers and became a docent at the art museum but his favorite tours were with fourth graders. He enjoyed teaching his grandchildren so much and he taught mine how to fish and paint and what to look for in the woods.

He believed passionately in education, his students adored him and he loved their curiosity and energy. He was thrilled that his new young doctors at U Mass came from all over the world. And believe me he bombarded them with questions. Not just about his health but about their lives. He wanted to give back to this medical center that gave him those 34 years. He wanted to continue to teach beyond his life. He would have been amazed to see how been others shared his decision to donate their bodies. It is such an incredible consolation. We hope you will care for your patients with wisdom and compassion. We hope you will know them and know how much their families loved them and thank you so much for this touching service. I thank you for the opportunity to speak.  
(Applause.)

>> MARIAM CHEKMEYAN: Thank you Holly and to all of the family speakers today. Now I would like to introduce members of the class of 2022 who will be performing "Make You Feel My Love" by Adele.

(Music) (Music)  
(Applause.)

>> MARIAM CHEKMEYAN: I would like to know announce the final speaker of the day. The professor and chair of the Department of Radiology, Mr. Max Rosen.

>> MAX ROSEN: Thank you I have the honor of having the anatomy program being part of radiology. It is one of the most meaningful and rewarding parts of my job here. I wanted to take a minute and acknowledge some of the people who make this whole incredible day possible. First all of the students who have prepared and performed and shared their talents. It is really humbling to see people who are incredibly wonderful and smart and also so talented. And the faculty, although everyone is listed here I want to acknowledge Dr. Yasmin Carter -- and Mandy Collins -- -- and they will be here if you want to say hello and they will be reaching out I am sure. The whole program comes together. It is not magic I wish it were but an enormous amount of time has been spent putting this together so we can share and appreciate this.

But important obviously I want to thank all of your family and loved ones and all the donors that have contributed so much to the program. To the education of our students and also, to the family speakers today who I think really embody what we try to do in teaching students not just anatomy but to begin to understand what it means to be a doctor and how to relate to our patients and how to relate to each other as people working in a team to take care of learning anatomy and as they go forward to take care of their patients.

And I think having a brief glimpse into the lives of three of our donors completely different lives -- but how the lives affected their family, it begins for the students and for me to continue to tie the whole story together about what it means to take care of our patients so thank you very much.

And there is a reception to follow. We hope you will all be able to join us to share thoughts and memories and to have lunch so thank you very much.  
(Applause.)

>> MARIAM CHEKMEYAN: Please exit through the back.  
Reception is downstairs and these roses are downstairs, members of the donor families are welcome to take them.  
(Applause.)