By Abe Forman-Greenwald

As you've probably gathered by now, we don't really do events in a conventional way in my family. Lynn and I got married in a movie theater, Anna and Zack got married at a baseball stadium. And a select few in the crowd may remember that my parents' legal wedding was upstairs in this very building when they were in their sixties (it's a long story).

So I'm going to start this off in an unconventional way by listing some of the things about my dad that I won't miss:

First and foremost, his addiction to instagram. To anyone else who is themselves afflicted or has a family member who suffers from IG-dependency… my heart goes out to you.

Another thing, the times he would get oversensitive about some remark and sulk like a child.

And third, was his impatience, although from my perspective, this got a lot better in his older years.

But in reflecting on this list, they're mostly characteristics that I resented because they made him less present. And part of me coming to terms with his loss over the past few weeks is just how present he was with me throughout my whole life. I spent every day as his son knowing that I was loved unconditionally for who I was. And I've talked to enough of my middle aged male cohort to know how special our father-son relationship was, and I don't take it for granted.

And to make up for my starting with the things I wouldn't miss, here's a much longer list of the things I will miss now that he's gone.

His sense of humor. These were, for the most part, not dad jokes that would make you groan but quick, funny observations. We made each other laugh a lot.

I'll miss his heart. It was weak in the medical sense but it was as strong as it could be in the metaphorical sense.

Walking with him here in Rittenhouse Square and being told by strangers what a great guy my dad is. I'll miss that desire of his to really connect with people, and to see how much that connection meant to those who got to know him.

His easy way of reassuring me when there were frightening things happening in the world. I'm sure he had his own anxieties, but he was great about not putting them onto me.

I'll miss calling him after Sixers games. At least I got to tell him the news when Lebron chose Philadelphia over the summer. Hopefully that moment will not be the pinnacle of the Lebron era as a Sixer. I'll save the rest of my Sixers talk for call in to sports talk radio WIP.

Even though he stopped wearing them after cataract surgery, I'll miss glasses era, I was the only kid in elementary school who wanted to get glasses so I could be more like my dad.

Calling him while walking my dog, just to say hi.

I'll miss being with him in the places he loved.

I'll miss our impromptu trips to places like Cleveland to go to a baseball game and the rock n' roll hall of fame.

His warmth, caring, and empathy.

The little songs he made up about my childhood friends that I remember 4 decades later

His love for dogs, which was not only passed down to me but is one of the biggest parts of my identity.

His relationship with my wife Lynn. It made me happy to see how close they were, and I'm thankful that they knew each other for almost 30 years.

Seeing his love and pride for his grandchildren.

Seeing his love and pride for my canine sister Selma Alabama Greenwald.

I'll miss his gently mischievous smile, often looking like a kid who's up to something- he kept that even into his late 70's.

And I know there are so many more things about him that I won't realize I'll miss until until it sneaks up on me.

I also want to thank my dad for teaching me a different, kinder version of masculinity. That vulnerability isn't weakness. And that the most important thing is to be there for your loved ones when they need you. Even when it's hard.

And I'd like to thank Chat GPT for writing this speech for me…just kidding. That felt like a David Greenwald joke and it wouldn't feel right without trying that.

And finally, one of the last things I remember him saying to me in person after my long visit here in August was "the only problem having you here so long is that it makes it harder to say goodbye." And I'd have to agree. Love you, dad.