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To Mr Mickey DeMartis My Hero

Remember when you were feeling down a few years ago with the "Why Me" syndrome. I told you then that you were selected to go through the many years of suffering & anxiety. I also compared you to your idol Mickey Mantle who was selected to be a great baseball player. When I asked if you wanted to be remembered as someone who made everyone happy and was an inspiration to young & old alike or to be remembered like Mickey Mantle. You responded "I want to be 'me' Uncle Joe".

The attached article by Mike Vaccaro seems to agree with my philosophy. In one paragraph he sums it up. " But he was a baseball player. A baseball player. He didn't win wars, He didn't solve cancer. He didn't extend the olive branch of peace to the Russians or write a laugh-out-loud episode of Frasier. He didn't help a high school freshman understand the wicked puzzle of algebra or create an artificial heart or help an old lady cross the road. He was a baseball player". To this list I add. He didn't invent like Dr Aldo Castaneda or Dr Jim Lock who together saved your life when the great Columbia Pres. Hospital gave you only 3 months to live. He wasn't a fighting US Senator like Al D'Amato who went to bat for you with the FDA & was also responsible for helping save your life. He wasn't nearly as courageous as your Dad or your mother & sister. And he wasn't as stubborn as your Uncle Joe who turned to the White House first to no avail. So don't be our President Mickey. Become a Senator from NY or a great doctor, a teacher or a priest. Don't become a sports star or actor unless you plan to give of yourself to helping others with your money & your time. There are many examples of celebrities that do great work like Oprah, Paul Newman, Robert Redford, Nancy R, Barbara S, Betty F, Bob Hope who's name says it all and on & on. But my hero is your Dad who responded to the surgeon when you were only 6 months old that said "Mickey has only a 2% chance to make it." My hero said "2% that's all Mickey needs, he'll make it". My other hero is your mother who refused to let you die and became a heart expert watching everyone who was involved & my other hero is your sister who sat with you for hours when you were in a deep coma & talked you back to life. Lastly you are my biggest hero Mick. There are no celebrities or stars that are bigger than you & that's why I will continue to try to bring your life story to the screen. Aunt Janet & I and all our children & grand children your Aunts, Uncles, Cousins, friends etc all love you Mick. Your life is a testimonial to the fighting human spirit. Love Ya.

Uncle Joe