

BETH

It's an honor to be here today at the dedication of the dynadome.

As Eric said, I'm Beth Satterfield and this is my daughter Carter.

Eric asked us to talk to you today about the impact of the Taylor YMCA pool and aquatics programs on our lives – honestly we could talk for hours about the friendships that we've made in and around this pool -- the many lessons learned, the laughter, the tears, and the character that has been built in between those lane lines ... but we only have 3 minutes!

So we'll talk fast!

Carter and I are very passionate about the Taylor Y pool because of how swimming help builds character, creates strong friendships and in our case – stronger families.

There are not too many sports where a mother and daughter can say this, but Carter and I compete for the same team! We both swim for YOTA.

CARTER

I'm in our Senior One group now – but I started off here at Taylor, when this shirt came to here (HOLD UP SHIRT POINT TO BELOW HIP).

Now I've been on YOTA for 10 years --6 of those swimming at Taylor. I started in the junior competitor program when I was seven, and then swam up thru the green, white and purple groups until I was 13.

I now practice at the South East Raleigh Y, but this summer I worked as a lifeguard here. So, I really feel like the Taylor Y is a second home.

BETH

I joined the master's group in 2020 – during the beginning of the pandemic, right after pools reopened.

And while Carter and I have always had a good relationship – master's swimming gave us a chance for some role reversal.

I was asking HER for advice.

And I was in awe of just how fast she could swim – her dedication to her sport –and how difficult it is to get behind the blocks and race. I had a newfound respect for her, her strength of character, her perseverance, and her mental toughness.

CARTER

The tables were really turned when Mom was having her first real mini meet. She didn't want me to come. In fact, she told me no spectators were allowed. (But I knew that wasn't true – we shared the same coach!)

When I told Virginia Ogren, then my teammate and one of my best friends --also a Taylor Y girl - she wanted to come watch Mom swim, too..

BETH

I did my best to discourage her –in fact – I said, “Carter – please don’t bring Virginia – what if I embarrass you? What if I do a belly flop off the block? And Carter said,

CARTER

Oh, no, Mom – there is nothing you could do to embarrass me in front of Virginia. She is the kind of friend where even if you did something embarrassing it would just become a REALLY GOOD STORY.

BETH

That’s the kind of friends that Taylor Y swimming creates.

CARTER

Next year, I’ll be starting my freshman year and swimming for Roanoke College. But I find it very fitting that I’ll *still* be practicing at a YMCA – only now it will be in Salem, Virginia.

Swimming has taught me that it is possible to push past pain and doubt and fear. I’ve learned that it’s outside our comfort zone that we grow, but we may have to swim through some pretty rough waters. And if there is one Bible verse I’ll never forget – it’s the one I’ve walked under literally thousands of times – Isaiah 43:2, I know when I pass through the waters, both rough and smooth -- God is with me.

We’re grateful for the Taylor Y lifeguards, aquatics staff – and YOTA swim team coaches who have helped me grow and to all of you who have given your time and treasure to this effort and in doing so, gave my Mom and me the opportunity to be a part of a very special family – connected by a love of swimming.

Thank you

END