**Remarks of Vice President Joe Biden**

**Eulogy for Tom Lewis**

**Tuesday, November 27, 2017**

**Claymont, DE**

He was a man.

Take him for all in all.

I shall never look upon his like again.

This task is beyond my capabilities.

To sum up such a man – whom I admired from the time we were at Holy Rosary.

My oldest and most loyal friend.

No-one who knew Tommy ever questioned his word-

Doubted his integrity-

Didn’t admire his courage.

Tom.

Tommy.

Spike.  
Athlete – All Conference, All State, Hall of Fame.

Captain Lewis.

Son.

Father.

Brother.

Husband.

Humble – tough – genuine.

My motheradopted him as her fourth son.

He protected my sister.

Jill and my children adored him.

He literally helped me raise Beau – Hunt – Ashley.

He was stoic and engaging.

He never passed an opportunity to be with his friends.

Always there when any were in need.

He could feel your pain because he experiences loss –

his dad and sister.

He met my dad’s standard better than any of my friends:

*“Never complain – Never Explain.”*

Tommy’s standards were high.

He was more mature than most of us.

He demanded honesty.

But he never left anyone behind.

But most of all, Tommy was fun to be with.

Always up for a party ---

especially because I was always there to drive.

Most of all it was Tommy’s smile

And nothing could light it up more than Amy and Molly.

My God, how he adored you.

So proud of your accomplishments.

Scholars.

Athletes.

Beautiful – beautiful girls.

All those summer weekends at our pool.

Diving contests – swimming.

Beau and Hunter.

Tommy was always there.

Always available.

Donna – he was your lover – your partner – your friend.

You knew him – you understood him.

Tommy was a success in every way.

*“To laugh often and much.*

*To win the respect of intelligent people,*

*And the affection of children.*

*To earn the appreciation of honest critics.*

*And endure the betrayal of false friends.*

*To appreciate beauty.*

*To find the best in others.*

*To leave the world a bit better.*

*Whether by a healthy child*

*or a garden patch*

*or a redeemed social condition.*

*To know that even one life has breathed easier*

*because you have lived.*

*That is to have success.”*

To Donna – Amy – Molly –

All the children and grandchildren:

I hope you take come solace in knowing how much

your dad – husband – grandfather

was loved – honored – and respected.

He touched so many lives from the students he educated – to the veterans he served –

to the people he worked with who loved him.

And all the Bidens who selfishly feel a family loss.

There is a tombstone in Ireland that read:

*“Death leaves a heartache*

*That no-one can heal*

*And a memory no-one can steal.”*

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