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Ashley Biden  
Democratic National Convention  
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Remarks as Prepared for Delivery

Good evening.

I have this memory. It's the eve of my eighth birthday. Dad is still in D.C., tending to urgent matters in the Senate. That night, as a surprise, Mom told me, Beau, and Hunter to get in the car. I remember pulling up to the Wilmington Amtrak station, riding up the escalator to the platform. The train stops, doors open, and Dad steps out. As soon as I saw him, I ran down that platform and jumped into his arms. Like magic, Mom brought out a cake, they sang "Happy Birthday," and I blew out the candles.

Dad hugged me. And said he had to get back to work. He crossed to the southbound train, and off to D.C. he went. That was a snapshot of one moment, of one day, on this extraordinary journey of being Joe Biden's daughter.

Joe Biden is the O.G. girl dad. He told me I could be anything and do anything. As a child, I would sit on the leather chair in his office doing my homework, and he would sit next to me doing his work: drafting the Violence Against Women Act. He taught me to take action in the face of injustice.

And he wasn't just a girl dad. I could see that he valued and trusted women. How he listened to his mother. How he believed in his sister. Most of all, how he respected my mother's career. Dad was always there doing anything he could to be a true partner to her.

Dad, you always tell us, but we don't tell you enough, that you are the love of our lives and the life of our love.

I had my wedding reception in my parents' backyard. At the time, my dad was vice president. But he was also "that dad" who literally set up the entire reception. He was riding around in his John Deere four-wheeler, fixing the place settings, arranging the plants. And by the way, he was very emotional.

I thought I would be a mess. But he was the one crying, and I was the one who had to comfort him. Before he walked me down the aisle, he turned to me and said that he would always be my best friend. All these years later, Dad, you are still my best friend.

His example in service inspired my career: I'm a social worker in Philadelphia. I support formerly incarcerated women as they heal from past trauma and reclaim their lives. Dad always told me that was no better than anyone else and nobody was better than me. He taught me everyone deserves a fair shot, and we shouldn't leave anyone behind. That's what you learn from a fighter who has been underestimated his entire life.

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When I look at Dad, I see grace, strength, and humility. I see one of the most consequential leaders ever in history. I also know that he never stops thinking about you. About your dreams. About your dignity. About your opportunities. About your families. He knows family is everything.

When Hunter and I lost our brother Beau to cancer in 2015, the grief and the pain felt like it would never end. Dad had the capacity to step out of his own pain and absorb ours. And I know that Beau is here with us tonight. He is always with us.

After Beau passed, I got this tattoo on my wrist. It says: Courage, dear heart. A reminder to myself to keep going, to get back up, like my dad has always done. He has taught me that a courageous heart is a miraculous thing. A courageous heart can heal a family. A courageous heart can heal a nation. And maybe even the world.

And now, this election requires the courageous hearts of all of us.

In 2020, my dad selected Kamala Harris to help beat Donald Trump. And he knows in 2024, she will beat Donald Trump again. So tonight, I am asking you: if you stood with us in 2020, call upon your courageous heart. Stand with us today. Work harder than you have ever worked before in your life.

This is the fight of our lifetimes. Our freedom. Our democracy. Our reproductive rights. All of it is on the ballot. And I know together we can do this. Because my dad showed us the way.

I am so humbled, and so grateful, to be Joe Biden's daughter. And to introduce him here tonight. Please join me in welcoming your 46th president of the United States of America, my dad, your president, Joe Biden.

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