Gabe Ruby's Last Will and Testament

Larry Almariento - You're one of the most chill people I've ever met. I always see you working hard at practice and you blew away my expectations when you moved up to Senior One. You're a beyond amazing teammate. And I super appreciate you coming to see my play to endure my singing voice.

Jacob Ambrose - I've known you for a while, and I honestly think that you've grown a lot more than you give yourself credit for. You've always been annoying, but especially over the past year, I've seen you make decisions more mature than you have in past ones. You always manage to make me laugh and you were a very good weights partner.

Sydnee Blackburn - You're the OG when it comes to swimming for me. We've known each other since ye olden days of the Hurricanes, and car rides with you are always super amazing. I love making you laugh (I'm not sure if you've heard, but I was in my high school play of, not sure if you've heard of it, but *Frozen*, kind of a big deal, I'm the king that dies in the first five minutes, just sayin' if you want to come—) and you're a very hard worker. Whenever I'm having a rough time with a Fly practice, you're there to brighten my spirits and push me beyond my limits. I'm going to miss training Fly with you. Hopefully you can show me how to fill in my eyebrows.

Blythe Brenner - SqUiRrEl?! I'm sad that you're not going to be going to Ithaca with me, but I'm super happy for you that you're going to be pursuing your dreams in Boston (D1 BAYBEE). Swimming will never be the same without my sprint buddy. We always tease each other in sprint group and push each other to go as fast as we can. We have the weirdest conversations ever, but I wouldn't have it any other way. Homecoming with you and the famiry always kicked my my school years off to an amazing start, and we've shared so many memories that I'm so grateful that we're friends. I'm still waiting for that Kelly v Kelly showdown. I hope I didn't make your eardrums bleed with my singing, Frozen or otherwise. Boston isn't going to know what hit 'em, dude. I'm still taller than you, though.

Delaney Brenner - Do you ever feel? Like a plastic bag? Drifting through the wind? Maybe wanting to start again? Maybe, but when I'm feeling like a house of cards one blow away from caving in, conversations like these with you always manage to lift my spirits up higher than a firework. You put up with my weirdness in sprint group, you always let my colors burst, which in and of itself is amazing, and when I'm singing like it's the Fourth of July, whether it's for the play or just because I have a stupid song stuck in my head, instead of making fun of me, you bounce back with it and we have a lot of fun vibing together. Alright, I'm out of *Firework* references. Gonna miss ya next year.

Jane Fomuso - Oh god, now it's the tiny Blasian Helen Keller. Even though I haven't known you for as long as many of our other teammates, we've still shared so many memories that make me happy to be your friend. Whether it's on purpose or not, you always keep spirits high in the group. I had so much fun hanging out with you at states this year, sorry about hiding your phone

in the microwave lol, and I hope that your senior year is somehow even more amazing than how you made mine.

Cooper Gavin - I have to be honest, man, there was a time when I hated your guts. You always worked so freaking hard, even when we were in Steve's 11/12 group, and you always make an amazing competitor at meets. Since I joined ODAC, you've pushed me harder than a lot of other people that I've swum with, so I guess I don't hate you that much anymore ;) Thanks for all of the hard work, and I wish you the best with the rest of your years in Senior One.

Jay Gerloff - I am so bummed that we didn't ever get to swim together in Senior One. Even though we were in separate groups, anyone can tell how hard you work at practice and you deserve every last champ cut you've ever gotten. More than that, though, you're a really good kid and I'm glad that I met you. I miss practicing with you and Jordy all of those years ago. More than a good swimmer, though, you're a genuinely nice kid. Going to states with you was so much fun, (thankfully no legs were broken in the process of that trip, both with the balcony *and* from Jane) and I wish that I could have gone to more with you. Oh well. Good luck with high school man.

Cate Gleim - Hanging out with you before Shannon practice with you was always the best. You're one of the survivors of my singing voice, so that in and of itself is amazing. You've always done the best that you could and I'm proud of how far you've come.

Jackson Hall - Another one of the OG. I've known you as long as I've been swimming, and hanging out with you over the years has been so much fun. Not to mention that you're weirdly smart. I haven't met a whole lot of people who think that AP Biology or Algebra II as a sophomore would be fun, and I definitely underestimated you. I hope you continue to succeed and have fun, and look after Hickory as the now-oldest ODAC boy there. Have fun, man.

Sydney Hall - HAVANANANA. Thanks to you, a song that I absolutely hate is on my playlist, not because I like it, but because it reminds me of your hilarious rants in Roger on the way to practice that never failed to leave me crying with laughter. I feel like if I listened to that song withOUT the nostalgia, I would be crying for much different reasons. You have such an infectious smile and laugh that even on my lowest days, you can manage to make me grin like it never happened. I miss practicing with you in sprint group, and I hope you and Bailey have an awesome time swimming together at MaryWash. Oh, and never forget Sarge, or else she'll make you clean her bathroom with a toothbrush.

Emma Henry - Did I ever tell you about the tragedy of Darth Plagueis the Wise? I forgot… you haven't seen any of the Star Wars movies you uncultured swine. Since summer league, you've always been so much fun to hang out with, and your reactions to my stupid jokes are always the best. You're so cool to hang out with, this year especially at training camp, I had a blast chilling with, and, of course, Pancake Mom is best mom. Keep on keeping on, man.

Blake Johnson - It's hard trying to figure out something that hasn't been said already, but I'll do my best. For a long time, you were that annoying fast kid from Norfolk Academy who I couldn't beat. And while that's still the case, over the years, you have pushed me to swim as hard as I can, and I'm so thankful that I had the opportunity to swim with you. Good luck in the future, man!

Kristin Johnson - Sooooo Golden Corral? If you ever happen to be around Ithaca sometime, just know that I'm always up for a spontaneous night of *The Greatest Showman* karaoke. Or around New York. Or on planet Earth. Or just now 'cause I'm writing this in quarantine and I'm hecka bored. We only had a year to practice together, but you were always the loudest cheerleader that our group had when it came to swim meets. Your bubbly nature always managed to hype me up to get me going as fast as I could before a race, and it's that kind of positivity that I can only hope to spread around to other people. I'm so glad that I had the opportunity to swim with you.

Kayleigh Jones - We never had the chance to practice together, but you're always super chill to hang out with at 8under meets, and I wish you the best of luck with swimming and school. Also, Kiersten says hi.

Ashley Kaminski - Soooo how was your day? Even though we only practiced together for a year, I can always count on you as a teammate, and I miss vibing with you at swim practice. I'm glad that you got to have your last Bolles meet with us, and I'm super proud of how strong you are, not just physically, but emotionally as well. Keep it up!

Bronwyn Keating - Dude, you have no idea how much I miss just messing with you in sprint group. We always managed to give Jordy heck, and it was always a blast hanging out with my OG sprint people. You always played along with my sassiness, and you never made me feel alone at practice. Keep on Bron-winning, man! (…I'll go home)

Ben Mauldin - Ben, I had such a blast driving you to practice this year. All junior year, I was hoping to be able to drive someone to practice, and I honestly could not have asked for a cooler or nicer one to drive. Our conversations are always interesting (I still think that Pokémon Sword/ Shield are the worst games of the series, but that's neither here nor there) and listening you rant about Mrs. Tam and Mrs. Geary is always hilarious. You listen to my own gripes about school, whether it's about Mrs. Wood, AP Euro, and otherwise. You're also one of the survivors of my *amazing* singing voice. Don't worry, my singing will never be nearly as good as yours (or able to hit that high of a pitch). You're going to kill it the rest of high school and probably everything else too. I'm not very good at writing will entries see ya later.

Caleb Mauldin - From the plain and simple fact that you got me into FRIENDS *and* The Office, I have been so thankful that you've been a part of my life. Although we only had the chance to swim together for one year, between States 2017-2018, Golden Corral, McDonald's, and Clearwater, there was so much fun that I had in that year, that one of the biggest wishes that I have standing on the other end is that I could have enjoyed it more. Your awesome playlist made riding to practice so much fun. Thank you so much for being there when I needed a friend and a

teammate, and you are going to absolutely kill it wherever you choose to go in life, even if the rain starts to pour.

Bailey McNabb - Bailey the Gorilla Beast. We've been sharing rides since ye olde days of Craug the Insidious, from Mrs. Lisa to Sydney to Caleb and then to you (and then *back* to you after a fender bender, but that doesn't matter), I'm always able to recognize you by your amazing license plate. You're so hilarious and talking to you always helps brighten my day even when I'm feeling down. You're going to tear it up with Syd at MaryWash, and I can't wait to see what you do.

Lewis Mikesell - We haven't been able to swim together as some of the other people on this list, but talking with you during stretches and practices is always so much fun. You're easily among the biggest Star Wars fans that I know (if Ramie weren't on here you probably would be), and I'm sorry that you were disappointed that there weren't enough force ghosts in The Rise of Skywalker. I hope you have a blast with the rest of your years in Senior One.

Braileigh Modica - Ohhh God, where do I start with this. Yours and Ramie's I've been saving for last to write cause, holy crap this is gonna be rough to get through without crying at least a little bit. But, I'm talking to you, specifically, Braileigh, right now, so Ramie, wait your turn. Braileigh, you have been there for me for so much. For as long as I can remember, you have always been the person who makes me feel like home, the shoulder that I've been able to lean on through tough times, but most importantly, you've been my sister. It would be pointless for me to say how much like family we are, but I'mma say it anyway. I would be nowhere near the person that I am today without you, and every day, I am so thankful that you are in my life. From ye olden days of Bethel Baptist Church, to chilling far and few between, to being on the same team, until now, you have seen the best of me, and you've also seen me at my lowest. Thank you so much for existing.

Ramie Modica - My bro. My homie. My brother. I in no way want you to feel left out, because you mean so much to me like Braileigh does, that I worry that because we haven't been able to swim together for the most part for a while, you might feel like you don't mean as much to me as you truly do. Lemme tell you something, dude, it was you that had so much fun with me before swim practice at Norfolk Academy. It was you that, when you saw that I didn't look too great, that I was a part of the conversation. It was you that I remember playing with lightsabers and Nerf guns on the playground outside your neighborhood. Similarly to Braileigh, but different in so many ways, your friendship has helped me grow into the person that I am today, and I wouldn't be near who I am without those sleepovers and homecomings and afternoons spent chilling on your couch watching Twilight Zone. You always looked after me the way a brother does, and to call you that would only be the most fitting word in the world. Thank you so much, man.

Ainsley Moorman - I'm sad that we didn't get to hang out more, but you're always hilarious. I'm excited to see what you do in the future, and Hickory (or whatever high school you end up going

to) won't know what hit 'em. Side note, your mom looks like the mom from Wizards of Waverly Place and nothing will change my mind.

Riley Moorman - Dude, it's been so much fun hanging out with you in Senior One the past two years. You never take things too seriously, which I could always learn from, and of course, you have the speed of a freaking jet. Good luck with the rest of high school, man.

Henry Oberley - It's been a while since we swam together, man, but I remember having so much fun when you were in the group. You're such a tank, and I could only hope to be half the Butterflier that you are.

Mattie Oberley - It's been such a blast rooming with you at swim meets and training camp over the last two years. I'm excited to see how much butt you kick the rest of high school thereafter, and I hope you always stay freaking awesome man. Side note, Ghost Adventures for the win.

Kate Pearson - They say that if you don't remember exactly how you met a person, then you're ironically good friends (I KNOW we met at Piranhas, but I have no clue how our paths specifically crossed back then). I have such good memories of hanging out at Ocean Breeze with you, enduring horrific Mark practices with you, and then the past two years of Senior One and high school together. You're such an amazing person, Kate, and I hope you keep being who you are.

Zane Roberts - Oh god, it's that weird fast kid from Suffolk. We have the weirdest conversations in the world in sprint group, but honestly, I wouldn't want it any other way. You have pushed me to swim faster than I ever thought I could, and when a practice was getting too tough or difficult to do, your jokes made even the worst practices become somewhat bearable. I'm going to miss you and your insane speed next year.

Taylor Roomsburg - No, I haven't seen Hamilton yet, although when it comes out on Disney Plus, you know that I'm gonna be right there watching it with you gushing about every last aspect of it. I've always been envious of your love for the arts, and the way that you can see the world when you let yourself is truly an amazing one. Our friendship has developed spectacularly over the years, and you're one of those people who I couldn't see myself existing without. You know that when I'm in college, I'll always be just a Snapchat, a DM, a text away. I love you so much, dude, and I'm going to miss you.

Bella Triolet - You french noodle. I could end it right there, but no. From the days of Butts Road Intermediate, you have become a part of my life that I never expected you to become. In fifth grade, you were Bella Troilet, not Triolet, because ten year olds can't read, the girl whose mom happened to be a teacher, and only knew me as "Jack, the weird kid from Mrs. McIntyre's class." Our friendship started developing in seventh grade, but didn't take off until eighth and ninth, when we endured Senior Prep together. The rest is history. Your sass and spirit have gotten me

through the toughest times, and quarantine has legit been the worst because I miss you, dude. I'm going to miss you even more next year, and I know that you are going to kick butt in New York.

Carson Yoder - We have been through thick and thin, my guy. In the lowest points of my life, you were always there with a helping hand, and I'm so thankful that you were there for me when I needed someone most. You're such an amazing breaststroker, and you can squat a semi-truck, so to say that you're a decent athlete would be undermining you to the highest degree. I can't wait to see where you go from here, and whenever you need me, I will always be in your corner rooting you on.

Bella Trolet

Senior One Girls: You guys have been the best support system I could ever ask for. I don't know if I could've gotten through my senior year without all of y'all's constant love and goofiness and just general insanity. I hope that in the coming years y'all really push to keep this culture of love and acceptance among the girls for every group that moves up. This group has given me some of my favorite memories and helped me through my lowest of lows. I want everyone to have the same opportunity that all of you gave me, so keep up the legacy of Bailey's Beaches. I love all of you <3

McBeast: Surprise! I'm crying right now as I'm writing this. We already knew that was going to happen. I don't think I can count the amount of times you've made me cry because you're so sweet and kind all the freaking time. You probably tried your hardest on your wills to make me cry like the training camp index card. I 'm going to miss our car rides together that summer after sophomore year when we would jam out to 2000s pop and Rasputinon the way to Bingo, the high school meet when you bought me balloons and Hostess cupcakes for my birthday, the countless sushi dates, all the Trunk or Treats, working order of finish with you at 8 & under meets, your obsession with Capri Sun, guarding with you at Great Bridge, Marvin and Melvin (r.i.p.), that one practice we were partnered for the Wheel of Misfortune, every time we were dryland partners and we boxed and you would vent or we would sing songs to the tempo of our punches, your Elmo impression, Finn dog, raiding your pantry every time I came over, our Black Friday shopping trips, and all of the practices we were in the same lane. I know I'm going to miss you and all the crazy adventures I've had withyou. You've been with me through it all and I honestly don't think I'd be the person I am today without you. You always know just what to do or say to make me smile and I couldn't possibly ask for a better friend. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for everything you've done for me, you really do mean the world to me. I love you to the ends of the earth <3.

Blythe: You are literally the light of my life. I can't describe it but your mere presence just makes me happier. You make me smile every day and remind me to not be so serious all the time. I cherish every memory I've made with you and I'm so glad you exist. You are the Best! Weights! Partner! Ever! even though we'd get in trouble with Steve a lot for goofing off all the time together. I don't think I'll ever meet anyone else who decides that the best solution to not having a dry suit is to have it spin on a decrepit ceiling fan for five minutes before practice, or someone crazy enough to forget to warm up, nearly miss their race, and then somehow magically get their Futures cut. I might have to try to get your teammates' contact information so I can make sure they keep you away from breadsticks and microwaves. I'm glad that you decided to ask a very vital question that led to Steve's current obsession with how fast cows can run, and I hope

you carry on our tradition of dancing before relays while in college because you know I will be. I love you and I'm going to miss you so much next year.

Braileigh: Nothing will cease my love for you b. You were my first friend when I moved up to Craig's group and since then I don't think I can imagine how my life would've gone without you. I know that's going to be a reality soon, but I'd rather ignore that. You've stuck with me through my most embarrassing phases and continued to give me love and support whenever I needed it, and sometimes when I didn't. I hope that I was able to return the favor at least sometimes. You're probably the best listener/advice-giver I've ever met in all of ever. I love hanging out with you and having heartfelt conversations. You make me feel like I can be unapologetically me around you and I can't thank you enough for it. Thanks for being a complete goof with me, cheering me up all the time, and pushing me every day. Thanks for all the (terrible) puns and the thot pad shenanigans, being the bestest member of the famiry, telling me you like my shirt every time I wear the tank top I tie-dyed at your birthday party, make the :50 interval with me during mid-distance practices, helping me get my tech suit on, hanging out with me at meets, always listening to my venting, and being absolutely freaking FABULOUS. I know that wherever you end up you're going to be the most important, most well-loved, and most cheerful person around. Don't let anyone dull your sparkle. I love you so so so soooooooooo much.

KP: It's been a long time since we met and you were my favorite 12 and under. I'm glad I've gotten to see you grow and mature over time into the lovely girl you are today. I love seeing you race because even though pretty much everyone on deck is taller than you, you're not afraid to show them that us short girls are not to be underestimated. I get so happy whenever you ask to swim next to me during freestyle test sets so we can race because I know you're trying to push yourself and improve. You're so strong in and out of the water and I hope that, even with everything going on in your life, you continue to flourish and not let anything get you down. Thanks for being such a wonderful teammate and friend and remember that all the girls will always be there for you when you need it.

Carson: We've been through some crazy stuff together, huh? I don't think there's anyone I'd rather have gone through that stuff with to be honest. I love jamming out with you when I have to drive you home after practice every once in a while and screaming about how stupid boys can be. You are amazingly strong and I don't just mean physically. I know you've been through a lot and yet you never let any of it slow you down. I know you can continue to break your own records no matter what stands in your way. You have a great few years ahead of you, so make the best of them.

Taylor: Follow your dreams girl. I'm kinda mad we never painted the locker room... among other things... but we still have time! Keep doing art (you're truly amazing at it), keep making others happy, and most importantly keep working hard! You make me laugh during hard practices (when we have enough time to breathe) and help me relax at meets. I know you've got what it takes to get into NYU and I'm totally rooting for you. Try to relax some, okay? You should be confident with what you've done so far to reach your goals, so focus on improving even further rather than dwelling on your regrets. I know that will help you a lot. Look ahead, not behind, and you'll be golden.

Emma: BACKSTROKE QUEEN!!!!!!! I know you really wanted to get that cut this season, but considering the meet got cancelled it turned out okay. In the future though you should really try to focus more on keeping yourself, and especially your lungs, healthy and not put so much pressure on yourself. Just because you don't get the cut when you're expecting to get it doesn't mean you're never going to get it. Regardless of all that, I'm in awe of you. You have an absolutely insane amount of determination, you never lose sight of your goals, and you never stop trying to find ways to improve. I could really use a page out of your book sometime. Aside from swimming, you are so genuine and kindhearted it brings me to tears. I love being around you and talking to you and hope that literally everyone who comes into your life feels the same way I do. I love you so much and I know you're going to be amazing in the coming years.

Jane: Girl, you'll always be "Black Helen Keller" to me. Thank you for always being the most cheerful person on the pool deck and giving Steve squinty looks so he gets sidetracked by calling you out and we get in the water 5 minutes later. Thank you for watching anime with me. You're so much fun to talk to during practice and I wish we could be in the same practice group (you should try a mid-distance practice I think it'd really help you improve). I love how you always manage to stay positive in the worst situations. You inspire me every day to be more optimistic and focus on what is good rather than what's bad. I am so glad I got to know you this year and I know you're going to do amazing in the future. Next year is your big year, so try to muster up some confidence and you will shine. Ily <3

Delaney: I'm really glad you moved up this year. You're an awesome person to talk to and you really know how to lift others up. I think you're super supportive of everyone and I know you're going to be a great leader when it's your turn. Keep up the hard work and you'll do some really great things. Don't be afraid to really go after what you want and race your butt off.

Riley: Never before in my life have I met someone like you, Riley. Whether or not that's a good thing, I'm still not sure. All I know is, I won't ever meet someone who is so driven

and yet still such a goof all the time. I love talking to you during mid-distance practices and watching you improve each and every day. I'm going to miss our conversations during freestyle and backstroke practices and watching you kick butt in the 200 freestyle. Don't let the boys bully you too much while I'm not there. Don't let anything or anyone get in your way of being the strongest and most amazing girl on the team and make the best of the rest of your high school years.

Jackie: I sound like a broken record right now, but I'm really glad you decided to join odac. You fit in so effortlessly that half the time we forget you haven't been on the team for as long as the rest of us. You bring such a bright, positive attitude to the team and you really help us get through tough times with your humor and infectious smiles. I'll always remember our days of fly practice together. Keep working super hard and being such an awesome teammate.

Sydnee: You might be the strongest person I know. Mentally, physically, emotionally, all of it. I can't believe how through every setback and disappointment you just continue to do everything you possibly can to improve. Every time I watch you swim with those awful fly paddles or get beat in a race I can count on the fact that in your head, you're thinking of every way you possibly can to better yourself. You have a way of making everyone around you want to be around you more with all your goofiness and attitude. Thanks for making working high school meets way less terrible. I know you're going to be an amazing leader next year.

Zach: Thanks for pushing me out of my comfort zone during practices and making me smile, and also coming up with *that* joke. It was annoying and embarrassing at first, but now it's just hilarious. I appreciate that you kept me from being too serious and pushed me to improve and get my isca cut (even though it was sort of a threat?). You've been a really good friend to me and I'm glad I got to share a lane with you this year. Keep it up next year and... do you smell something???

Jacob: As annoying as you tend to be sometimes, you really do know how to lighten up any situation. I appreciate you for trying to cheer me up when you know I'm not in the best mood and also being one of my biggest motivators to get an isca cut. It's been awesome to watch you slowly but surely improve over the course of this short course season and actually get a little bit better at kicking. Maybe if you'd show up to practice more often you can learn how to go out as fast as you want to and not die. That aside, thank you for being such a good friend and teammate this year. I know next year you're going to do some really amazing stuff and I'm sad I won't be there to see it.

Cooper: Keep up the hard work, and maybe try to do something with that backstroke of yours. Make good choices.

Heath: It's been fun practicing with you all these years. I'm going to miss your sassy remarks and your intense drive to improve. I know you're going to do amazing in college and blow everyone away with how freaking smart you are.

Blake: It was fun swimming in a lane with you for so long. You really pushed me to be better every day (maybe because I didn't want to get lapped). You're such a hard worker and I'm glad I got to watch you (finally) break 1:40 in the 200 free. You've got a bright future and I know you're going to excel. It's your big year next year, so make it count.

Gabe: Dude, we've been through hell and back together and I'm glad we managed to stay friends through it all. Thanks for obsessing over Harry Potter with me (Slytherin is superior), cracking stupid jokes to lighten the mood, getting so hype over books and movies and other nerdy things with me, and always cheering me on when you get the chance. I'm going to miss us always trying to fight each other (even though we both knew who was going to lose), the way you say "sharks and minnows," playing that Hunger Games simulator at summer league meets to pass the time, and being a part of the famiry together. I know you're going to do amazing at Ithaca next year and I'm pretty hype that we're going to be in the same state. I'm going to miss you so much, I love you dude.

Zane: Thanks for always being super sassy and funny all the time. You really lighten the mood when you're around. Keep making everyone smile, and also maybe try to show up to practice more often?

Ben: Thanks for always pushing me during fly and backstroke practices. I don't know if you realized that at all but just being in a lane with you makes me want to try harder. It's been amazing to see you improve and do crazy things like swim a long course mile fly and get your isca cut and destroy Heath at Greensboro. You really amaze me with your determination and drive and I know you're going to do some really awesome things in the next couple years. Keep up the hard work in and out of the water.

Mattie: On the top? Dude, you're crazy. Like actually insane. I didn't think I'd ever watch someone swim every long distance race fly, but here you are. You are such a powerhouse and it honestly amazes me. You're the strongest person I've ever met and I know you're going to get even more amazing in the coming years. Keep up the hard work and keep being a good example for the rest of the team.

Larry: LAY OFF THE DING DONGS LARRY!!! Thank you for putting up with me dragging you to a movie you've already seen because I know you live right across the

street from the theater, for continuing to ask for a ride on Saturday mornings, even with my crazy driving, for making high school meets feel a little less boring and slow, and always being there to listen and joke around with me. I know you're going to continue getting better in the coming years and give those other boys a run for their money. Show those boys who's boss. Also, please for the love of all things holy fix your flipturns.

Senior Two: You are the future of this program. Keep working hard and give it your all every practice. Don't start drama. You have all worked way too hard to have to worry about pointless stuff like drama getting in the way of your success. Enjoy your time with your teammates and always be supportive so all of you can just have fun and train hard together.