My Dear Family,

If you are reading this, it means I have finally done something I have been meaning to do for a very long time — put into words what you have meant to me and what I hope you will carry with you.

First, I want you to know how much I love you all. That may seem obvious, but love is one of those things that is often felt more than spoken, and I did not want to leave it unsaid. Each of you has been a source of pride and joy in my life, far more than I ever expressed in everyday moments.

When I look back, what I remember most are not the big events but the ordinary days — dinners around the table, holidays that were sometimes chaotic but always full, and the simple comfort of knowing we belonged to one another. Those are the moments that made my life rich.

If there is anything I have learned over the years, it is that kindness matters more than achievement, and that the way we treat people is what endures. I hope you will be patient with one another, forgive quickly, and stay connected even when life becomes busy. Time moves faster than we expect.

There were times in my life when I did not always say the right thing or handle things as well as I might have. For those moments, I ask your understanding. Like everyone, I was learning as I went. Please know that any shortcomings came from my own limitations, never from a lack of love.

What I am most proud of is not anything I accomplished on my own, but the family we became. Seeing you grow into the people you are has been the great privilege of my life.

As you go forward, I hope you will take care of your health, find work that gives you some sense of purpose, and make time for laughter. Do not postpone joy. Call each other. Visit when you can. Share meals. These are the things that matter.

If you ever face difficult days — and everyone does — remember that you come from people who endured and kept going. There is more strength in you than you realize.

I would like to be remembered not for any single event, but as someone who loved you and did my best, however imperfectly, to provide, to encourage, and to be present.

Thank you for the life we shared. Thank you for the memories, the noise, the celebrations, and even the disagreements that proved we cared enough to stay connected.

Carry forward what was good, let go of what was not, and take care of one another.

With all my love,