

Good Morning! Today I am going to be presenting a commemoration speech to you about some of the members of my family. I have had many special memories with each of them. I would like to begin by introducing each member. The earliest member of my family is named Houston. She was named after the state capital of Texas. The next member of my family is named Madison. She was named after the state capital of Wisconsin. The last member of my family is named Sydney. Guess what! She was named after the state capital of Australia. Do you recognize a theme? Now why is it that most of the members of my family are named after state capitals, but not me? Was there an Elyssa, New Mexico at some point before I was born? No, I know the reason why I have the oddball name in our family. These family members are my cute, adorable, and loveable pets! Yes, my family has had the theme of naming our pets after state capital's. Thank goodness, they didn't try to name me after a state capital. Also, before I go on, just to make sure that we are all on the same page, there is no Elyssa, New Mexico, nor has there ever been one.

I would now like to commemorate on each of my pets and share with you what makes them so special. I'm going to begin with Houston. She is a Hemalian cat. She had been a part of our family from when I was just a couple months old to when I was a junior in high school. She was gray, black, and white colored. She was found as a stray and then my mom took her into our family. She was not like any other cat. She had the sweetest personality and she was more to me than just a cat. She was my friend and companion. She loved being held and enjoyed sleeping and cuddling up next to me in bed. She loved being scratched under her neck and that made her purr like crazy. Once in a while though, she had her moments of disgust. When she sneezed, sometimes I think she felt that I needed to have my face or hands washed. Not very pleasing, I know. Also once in a while I would get an unpleasant wake up call of her when she was throwing up. Now imagine this scene: It is 4:00 in the morning and you are off in a deep sleep, just dreaming away, when all of a sudden you are ripped from your sleep by..... Houston has been gone for two years now and I miss her so much. The memories that I had with her will always remain within me. If my family decides to get another cat, it will never replace Houston. Houston was one of those special, one of a kind cats. She will never be forgotten. I'm glad that I was able to grow up with such a wonderful, loving cat.

I would now like to commemorate on my dog Madison. She was our second golden retriever. She was a part of our family from when I was four until I was in sixth grade. She was gentle, loving, and had her frequent belching moments. She enjoyed spending her time chewing away on her squeaky toy football and lying outside in the summertime. Unfortunately, we had to put her to sleep and it was a very tough time for me. I had been very close to her and losing an animal, was almost like losing a sibling.

Now I would like to commemorate on my dog Sydney. She is also a golden retriever. My parents and I got her from a farm during the summer of when I was entering 7th grade. She is the only dog in which I can remember her puppy years really well. Once in a while when she would be running outside, she would just fall to the ground. She wouldn't stop or slow down as she was running. She simply headed for the ground. She also liked to run out the door if we had it open for a second and we would have to go chase after her. Those are the two things that I remember most about her as a puppy. Now, she acts more gentle and less crazy. She slept with me every night and she still continues to sleep on my bed. She has basically claimed my bed as her own now. Sydney has had many embarrassing moments. She burps a lot, has had times where little noises can be heard from her as she is running down the stairs....so lady like. Once in a while I

receive wake up calls from her, but don't worry not any throwing up wake up calls. No her wake up calls consist of licking my hand or my face. My response to this: Wake up, notice it's too early to get out of bed, say hi to Sydney, pet her a couple of times, and then go back to bed. Sydney is definitely more than just a pet to me. She is my friend and I miss her since I don't get to see her everyday. She is so excited to see me when I come home and visit. I walk into the house and she gets so excited, runs to me and starts jumping all over me and licking me.

All of my pets have been more than just members of my family. They are my friends and my siblings. They are there for me always. They know when I am sad or upset because they comfort me.