

(s) My name is Solange. [And I'm Jean-Canot.] We've known Ikse for a long time, through Voyageurs, High Trails, and most recently lived with them here in St. Paul.

(c) We are here today not only to celebrate Ikse, but also to celebrate the large and beautiful community that Ikse surrounded themselves with, and the roles that you all played in Ikse's life. Here's how it'll work - we'll read a series of statements. If the statement applies to you, please stand if you are able, and remain standing until the end.

-(S) Please stand if you held Ikse as a baby, if you changed their diapers, soothed their tears, managed their tantrums, or otherwise participated in raising them from the beginning. (Pause)

-(C) Please stand if you were a part of Ikse's childhood, if you were a teacher or a family member or a friend or a cousin from way back, if you taught them life skills or told them stories or played with them when they were young. (Pause)

-(S) Please stand if you've ever shared a canoe with Ikse

-(C) if you ever rock climbed, gone hiking, played ultimate frisbee, fenced or did acroyoga with them

-(S) Please stand if you've ever played a board game with them, enjoyed a meal with them, laughed with them, enjoyed a great sunrise or sunset with them, or learned a new thing with them

-(C) Please stand or remain standing if you support Ikse's community, and hope Ikse's life will always bring us wisdom and strength.

(S) Take a moment, and look around at all these faces. (Pause) Ikse lives on in the memories and actions of each of us. These are the people who will share stories of Ikse for years to come, who will continue to quote them, or to do something a certain way because Ikse taught them, and who will understand when you get emotional at the sight of a mushroom and be ready with a hug. (Pause) In short, these are the people who you can lean on (Remember that you are not alone.) Through Ikse, this is your community too. Whether you've known Ikse since they were born, or for only a little while, thank you for being a part of Ikse's life. (Pause) And for being part of our community.

Thank you, you may be seated.