

English version, ceremonie Haron 24-10-2020

Opening speech Mariele Mijnlieff:

Today,
One week ago,
In the middle of the night,
Came that blow. That enormous hard blow.

For Haron.
For the immediate family,
For friends, neighbors, fellow villagers, classmates, study partners, teachers, camping
guests, bar regulars, sports buddies, outdoor friends, Scouts,
for the children at the school where Haron taught,
for friends in 11 different countries, spread all over the world
world from India, Australia, Korea to Bolivia and half of Europe ...

A blow that was fatal
And hit like bomb in the water,
with the impact spreading in ever larger circles.

Welcome all,
people here, people at home.
Thank you for being here.

Today we remember Haron's life, in words, with images, symbolism (LIGHT) and...
music.

Mother, sister, brother, brother-in-law, uncles, grandfather, a teacher and some friends
talk about what Haron means to them and what they will remember.

The video that was already made by a friend in Norway on the night of his death will
be shared with you,
a friend played the piano
a friend sings.... and plays guitar.

But first the word to Helma, his mother

Speech Helma Mulder, Haron's mother:

It was a sunny spring day. Friday 25th of April 1997.
I had made 5 liters of yoghurt out of fresh milk from the neighbors and had weeded
the rose garden, it seemed best to me to go to bed.
In the distance the heavy bass of the Golden Earring could be heard from the
loudspeakers from the Sunsation festival in Middelstum. A festival where the Golden
Earring performed every year. The wind was favorable, so the music was audible in
Onderwierum. Every year we were at the party at Sunsation.
But not this year. Maybe it is not very sensible to deal with 40 Weeks of pregnancy
going off on Radar Love, Another 45 miles or Johnny make believe. Unfortunately.
Maybe next year.

At half past eleven I turned – on the beat of Another 45 miles – the bedside lamp off. A little bit of sleep, tomorrow I'll go to the supermarket with Thirza for some groceries.

After half an hour of sleep I woke up. Stomachache. I get out of bed for a while, to drink some water. In the kitchen, the pain intensified, and I decided to call the doctor.

“Take it easy, I'm on my way” he said. After arriving I had to lie down immediately....

Haron took his first breath on Saturday the 26th of April 1997, at half past one in the night.

Haron was an extremely calm baby. He was breastfeeding well and was back to birth weight in no time. After three weeks he slept through every night.

After a few weeks, I expressed my concern to my mother.

“Corry, I don't know, but he never cries. Just never really! I have to think about feeding times myself and poop pants don't bother him either. Is this even okay?”

“I don't think you need to worry. He just feels happy and safe with you!” she reassured me.

Haron grew up as a happy and cheerful child, walked within a year and had a lot of fun with his sister Thirza.

At the age of 2.5 years and full of enthusiasm he went to kindergarten, and it soon became clear what kind of boy Haron was. Racing on the bikes and carts in the gym, he always wanted to be the fastest. But toddlers of course all want to play with that one red bicycle or with that one wooden cart.

The kindergarten teacher soon saw it: this is a born leader. Soon Haron had distributed all the toys to the 15 toddlers. “If you go on that first, then the other one will be allowed later. And vice versa.” The teacher thought this was very exceptional behavior for a child his age.

4 years old, on to the Walfridusschool in Bedum. By now the family had been expanded with 2 more brothers. Nathan and Yoram.

He enjoyed classes 1,2 and 3 in Bedum. Almost every afternoon he wanted to play with one of his many friends after school. He had to go to their place, or they had to come to Onderwierum. According to the teachers a very energetic and social child who prefers to play football outside in the schoolyard and who prefers to talk all day long. Which was always the case at home, especially during dinner.

Cognitive subjects appeal to him less.

Haron is now a member of the football club in Bedum and fanatically participates in training and competitions. he runs sweating like mad as an Arjan-Robben-in-the-making across the field and shouts throughout the match: "Here!! Here!! Here that ball !!”

In 2004 all children made the transition from regular primary education to De Vrije school in Groningen. Haron is right at home there and again has a lot of friends.

Playing outside, drawing / painting, music lessons and going to the allotments remain the highlights for him. Math or Language are still less of his interest. We try to improve his cognitive skills with remedial teaching. Concentrating on these subjects is a tough one for him. He has since stopped playing football. Because training 3 times a week

and a game on Saturday costs him too much energy and he wants to spend more time playing with friends. That is why he now takes djembe lessons.

Due to a tough and turbulent period during our divorce, Haron decides to live with his father in the summer of 2007. We have been out of touch for more than 10 months. Thank God, after mediation of youth care, there is gradually contact again. Fortunately, Haron comes to stay every other weekend in a start-up period of six months.

I now get to know him as a starting adolescent. And as always still energetic, sociable and likes to be the center of attention. He sports a lot, lets his hair grow, and many girls are interested in him. No wonder, he is also a beautiful boy. Well built, athletic and dazzling brown eyes that melt many people.

In Stedum he also joins the scouting. He is fanatically participating as a youth member at De Struners, of which I, Thirza, Nathan and Yoram are also a part. We all go to camp, do adventurous hikes, fires, pioneering kitchens and we indulge ourselves with all kinds of great outdoor activities. The basis for his Outdoor & Adventure has been laid. Here was his passion. Together, on an adventure in nature.

After a period as a youth member, he shows yet another great quality of himself. He becomes a mentor of the scouting kids at the age of 17. You can see him intensely enjoying his role as leader and can often be found on the lawn where he does crazy tricks such as handstand and cartwheel or he practices flips. The kids can't get enough of it. As well as the games and songs in the evening by the campfire.

2016. Haron is now in possession of a VMBO, a MAVO and a HAVO high school diploma and I am proud. Super proud. Haron leaves Marijenkampen, back to his roots in Groningen. He starts studying ALO - Outdoor & Adventure at the Hanze University of Applied Sciences in Groningen. He himself expressed it as: "Now my life is really going to begin. I'm going to do what I'm good at."

In the spring of 2019, a number of student houses later, he ends up in his own pimped caravan at De Stadscamping (city campsite) in Groningen. "I have a wonderful life in my tiny-house mom! Whether in my caravan or outside, I always hear the birds and I experience the seasons intensely. I am surrounded by nice people who also like to be outside. When I graduate next year, I am going to buy an old VW van, I will clean it up and go out into the world. On adventure."

Shortly after New Year's Eve, my brother and I took him to Norway to study abroad for six months at the University of Kristiansand. Another new adventure. Huub van de Lubbe was a guest during one of the last broadcasts of 'De Wereld Draait Door'. He closed the interview with a song that touched me deeply. And the first thing I thought of was "Haron". I shared the song in the family WhatsApp group that same evening. Within minutes the phone rang. Haron was on his bed in Kristiansand and burst into tears upon hearing this song. I didn't keep it dry on the couch in the Netherlands either. Together we listened to the song again. There was that close connection again at a distance of 1000 kilometers.

He had so many more adventures in store.
It shouldn't have been.
He hadn't been given more time.

He was only 23 years old, but he must have experienced more than many people of 80.

I was delighted that I would bake bread with his children in the new fire pit or that we would watch the frogs together at our ditch.

They will not be there. But I will pass on your love and energy to the grandchildren for whom I hope I can still be granny fire.

Thanks dear Haron, for letting me be your mother.

(music: Voor altijd jong – Huub van de Lubbe)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DYwIz88q7II>

poem Thirza Wierenga, Haron's sister:

To my little brother

Prettiest soul on this earth
Your purest form of being has so much worth

Bringer of light
From love this poem

You show me love in its purest form
With your power we will overcome this storm

Your energy has been given back
Soon you will continue in a new life

The universe will now take care of you
You will come back here, maybe even tomorrow

Letting go, little brother hurt me so much
I will see you again, although I don't know when

New life will always come
For you we will plant so many trees

So deeply rooted are you in my heart
Your death, for many a new start

A forest I will plant in your name
By feeling your presence relieves this grief

Playing outside together in our new life
I still want to share so much with you

Running through the forest and field together
Dear, dear Haron you are my biggest hero!

(music: Hey brother – Avicii)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=69Fb6XozEx8>

Speech teacher Highschool Richard Veldboer:

When I was asked if I wanted to say something on behalf of the school, I did not have to think long about it.

And at the same time; there are so many people who would like to comment on their adventures with Haron. About the Ardennes, the Alps, the Pyrenees, about Norway. Haron loved life, traveling, dreaming and freedom. He was constantly looking forward to the next adventure.

Haron was always ready for others. He always wanted to help. He usually said YES first, and only then started to think about whether it would be possible.

So, it's an honor to do this for Haron and the family.

Haron was also more Outdoor than ALO. He would prefer to have followed an Outdoor education with specialization ALO.

He also found the education difficult at times. He was once in a training session with me and we were talking about 4 years of planning ahead. Looking so far ahead; that was impractical and almost impossible.

So, I advised him to break it into pieces. He liked that. So, he planned in pieces; from trip to trip; from adventure to the next adventure; from enjoy to enjoying. And he enjoyed it to the fullest.

Haron always wanted to do it right too. He worked hard to get his act together. And at the same time, he liked so many things and he wanted to do so many things at the same time.

He found it difficult to choose.

And if he had a direct and clear task, there was full confidence that he did a great job. He went for it fully; as he did with many things. And he did it well.

And because he wanted everything and wanted to do everything right; out of loyalty, friendship, vulnerability, responsibility, involvement and enthusiasm, he sometimes disappointed himself.

He sometimes wanted too much of himself. And what he thought was even worse; that he disappointed others. He didn't want to let that happen.

He could then hit himself on the head. And he was also very reflective in this. He could then withdraw for a while and then name exactly what was wrong. And he always came out wiser and stronger.

He did everything with passion and 100%; his successes and also his mistakes. And how honest he was in that. Always!

Haron, what I have always admired in you was that after every disappointment you picked yourself up again and went back to work with an enormous boundless energy, enthusiasm and positivity. That inspired me and others too.

You always wanted to learn; you went for the best. I always envision you as an enjoyer of life and motivator; you were involved with all your heart and soul in what you did and what you believed in. A good guy, a friend with his heart in the right place; a people person.

Your energy and fun would then burst from those eyes of yours. And with that you got any group along. They went completely for you.

You lived your life with passion; you used it as a playground for learning and you probably never would have stopped playing. I would have given you so much to grow old while playing.

Haron, you were, you are and will always be an outdoor companion. An example for many. We really appreciate what you have done for students and us. You will do well on all your travels and all your dreams. You are free.

(music: Another 45 miles – Golden Earring)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=62SPj-28XQE>

Speech granddad Jan Mulder:

26th of April 1997

Helma gave birth to the most beautiful child in the world, Haron in Onderwierum.

Even as a beautiful toddler, he managed to charm people with his hat on his head, they watched him with a smile, and he smiled back. His first successes as a natural charmer, practicing for later.

From Onderdendam and later from Steenwijk and Groningen he learned, through trial and error, to discover the boundaries of his ever-expanding world. He was looking for the adventure to push and expand those boundaries.

The adventure represented the exuberant lightness of his much too short existence.

Always open, always a smile, always friendly, thoughtful, honest, and helpful, never having the intention to harm someone else, but also serious conversations about how and why things go on this planet were certainly part of that.

He was not a holy all-rounder, of course you sometimes do wrong things here and there, but then you climb back on the shore and continue your way, that's how you do it as an outdoor athlete.

That was his way of dealing with people and things, that was his certainty of normal.

He was and is much appreciated and loved by us and by many.

In the encounters with him, his character naturally made him your friend.

He has many worldwide.

It is a privilege to be part of that, to be your grandfather and grandmother.

Haron, bound to you with love forever.

We are going to miss you terribly.

Speech brother in law Fokke Kooistra:

The Violet in the king's garden

A king walked into his garden and found there, withering trees, flowers and shrubs. The oak said that he died because he couldn't get as high as the pine tree. When the king turned to the pine tree, it appeared that he left it all there because he could not bear grapes like the vine. The vine was dying because it couldn't bloom like a rose.

Then the king saw a violet bloom and look as fresh as ever. When he asked why the violet was not sad, the violet replied:

I assumed you planted me because you wanted violets. If you wanted an oak, a vine or a rose, you would have planted them. That's why I thought I should be my best self, as you imagined. I can only be what I am, and I try my best to be as good as I can be.

That's how I've always seen Haron. Someone who always gave 200% in everything he did and who remained himself and with that he inspired me with his radiant power.

Dear Haron, I am going to try to let the seed that you have planted with in me grow and bloom, and I hope that I may share with your radiant power with others, with which you deeply touched me.

You have already succeeded in planting the seed in me, now it is up to me to let that part grow and blossom.

I hope one day, that everybody can pick our fruits.
I will cherish you in my heart and I will never forget you again.

(music: Diggy Dex & JW Roy)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WY6cqjE7tYw>

(film made by friends from Norway)

See you again – Wiz Khalifa
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nugmZqIP0uk>

Speech Yoram Wierenga, Haron's younger brother:

Haron showed me everything in this world. You gave me your hand and took me with you. Everything you did, you did with 200% and you were always the best in everything, I looked up to that.

Now that you lie there, in peace, I start to understand why you couldn't do it any different, you only had 23 years.

Haron passed through life quickly. So quickly, that I couldn't keep up with him in the last few years. I lost him in his fast life, his party's, his friends.

I didn't accept it. It hurt me, a lot, to see that I couldn't keep up and be part of this, so I decided I had to go my own way.

This was tough for the both of us, and this regularly led to conflict.

But there was one thing that Haron strongly believed in: "Love will always be stronger".

Last New Year's Eve we were together. When this song was on the radio (Brother In Arms – Dire Straits), we held each other, and the only thing I felt was love. I knew things were good between us. This was the last time that was able to look so deeply into your core.

What I saw; was so much love for everything around you. But I also saw fear, which manifested itself in a deep-seated inner struggle.

That struggle was there, but you did not want, nor show it.

That's why you started to run even faster, showed even more love, and brought even more light.

And after 23 year, you ran out.
You gave everything what you had.
Haron died to further connect this world even more and bring us even closer. Thanks to him I became who I am today, that I don't have to make the same mistakes as he did, that I can spread the love he gave to me.

Dear Haron, I will be forever grateful, for what you gave me.
I love you with my whole soul and I'll live your existence until the day I see you again.

(music: Brothers in arms – Dire straits)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jhdFe3evXpk>

Speech Henk & Peter, Haron's uncle's:

Dear Haron, dear family, dear friends. Actually, dear world...

today we celebrate your farewell between trees, the plants, the flowers and the bushes.

Saying goodbye to you, is not something we say, but something we do by planting trees. Planting trees, and more trees. This is how we will commemorate and remember.

The leaves blow around us. we are together and not alone.

A thousand words are too short to say what you meant to me and Henk.

Our house was often your house and a home, from ten-year-old boy to this day ...

Our life, your life, life, connected, and it connected people again with you and our worlds.

I was able to record your life, building boxes together with Henkie, swimming in Engelbert, enjoying a good drive in the car, into town, eating out, you always went with us, and you were very proud of the fact that you could fill in a puzzle piece, which was so dear to us.

Dear Haron, thank you, for everything, absolutely everything...
Your passion, your interest, your presence, everything actually. We are going to miss you terribly, and will cherish what you brought us...

You will always be in our hearts, for eternity.

Truly yours,
Peet and Henkie

(music: Haron's friend Nina is playing piano)

Speech Johan Mulder, Haron's uncle:

Dear Haron

There you lie, way too young, you still had so many plans.

You loved football in your youth ...

It was your birthday, I can't remember how old you turned, but you were 7, 8 or 9 years old.

By coincidence I managed to get two free tickets for a home game in the old Oosterpark stadium.

You loved going there, so did I. After all, I had never been there, and I knew nothing about football

During the game you knew exactly who playing the ball, you told me every little detail.

After the match we went somewhere in the Oosterpark district to get some fries.

We walked into a cafeteria somewhere and ordered some food.

During our dinner, someone suddenly asked Haron ...

"Did you enjoy this great football match with your father?"

We looked at each other with a smile, our day couldn't have been better.

In recent years we got more and more contact, you became more mature.

Traveling and adventures soon became your blood, partly due to the scouting of Stedum, which was founded by your mother. There you learned to appreciate outdoor sports and survival even more.

Your choice of study was therefore also related to outside sports activities.

You also wanted to travel around the world with an old Volkswagen van.

You often asked me about the trips I had made with Anita by motorcycle through Asia.

You were very enthusiastic about the fact that you wanted to travel with your brother and me. We wanted to make a trip through America in an old van (preferably a T-1).

You were also a great fan of music, especially reggae, and the green plant that went with it...

You also thought the music of 'Doe Maar' was beautiful, and you sometimes asked me about that denim jacket full of buttons that I used to wear back then, and whether I still had those buttons, because you wanted them...

If they will ever again perform, I said....

Unfortunately, because of The Corona Virus it was canceled, otherwise we would have been there on October 14, together with Yoram.

But Yoram, next year we'll go together and toast to Haron.

The Sting concert in June 2019 here on the running track was also great, we enjoyed it and danced with everyone who was there.

We just slept here on the camping site, (I was allowed to sleep in the small caravan with you). After the show we had a couple of beers and went to sleep with a good mood.

Our trip to Norway for your internship was also great.

Transport of your belongings was only still a problem.

Helma said I'll bring you, but I thought it wasn't a smart idea for her to drive that long road all alone, so I said I wanted to join in bringing you to Norway.

Well, and a lot went along too ...

Haron thought a van, that's handy!
I estimated about two cubic meters of your belongings went with you.
Everything went along, from a complete stereo installation to all the spice jars in his kitchen.

And then all outdoor items from bicycle to snowboard.
And, he had bought generously from the liquor store, knowing that alcohol was unbelievably expensive there.
A whole shelf full of spirits ..., about 6 bottles.
Well, he wouldn't be short of friends I guess

Once there, it turned out that the kitchen cupboards were empty and that you should have arranged this yourself. Of course, those were the only things you hadn't brought from home. So, the next day we went to a large thrift store, and spent the whole afternoon there, we laughed a lot about your purchases.

You were very social and a listening ear to everyone and you did a lot for people..., sometimes a real Mulder....

You were also very helpful, and were there for everyone, despite your busy times, here in the Netherlands.
You still took the time to put together a bunk bed in my house with Noor.

I myself have two daughters whom I love dearly, but sometimes you felt like a lost son...

Haron, I don't know if there is an afterlife, but I wish you a good journey

Speech Roelof Admiraal, Haron's friend:

Dear Haron
We have known each other from childhood
Going on holiday with our families and playing army together
You were always positive and full of energy
You wanted to enjoy life, every single day again
We shared the spontaneity by calling each other randomly at 6 pm to ask if we were going to eat together
Even though you moved at some point, we kept seeing each other
The friendship we had, never chanced
When you lived in Steenwijk, you sometimes said, out of sight but not out of mind
Since you lived in Groningen again, we had many adventures together
From New Year's Eve on the Kardingerbult
To a random party to which we had invited ourselves
Haron surely liked a beer
So, let's toast to life
Thank you for all the adventures I was able to experience with you
We're going to miss you Haron

Rest in peace

(music: Piano Man – Billy Joel)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LLbew85exp0>

Speech Thijs Dijkstra, Haron's friend:

.....

(video: Haron's friend Noah Karman is playing guitar)

Speech Noah Karman:

Dear Haron, family and friends.

I've known Haron since I was 15 years old, through our group of friends from Steenwijk and since I started my study in Groningen we've become very close friends. Because our group can't be present at the ceremony today I would like to say something on behalf of them and on behalf of me and my girlfriend Elena, who also was very close with Haron.

Haron was the pacemaker in our group, and everything we did was much more fun when he was with us. He and I talked about our group a few weeks ago, and he said that although we didn't see each other as much as we used to, that didn't matter. We shared an important time in our childhoods so our connection will never fade away. One of the funniest and most memorable things Haron did was at the end of a party he became a little emotional and he'd say: great party guys! So, Haron, on behalf of the group and for the last time: great party!

Haron and his caravan were a very safe space for Elena and me. Haron would always listen intently to everything you told him. If it was a good story he would say: "really? Awesome!" If it was a bad story he would put his arm around you and say: "Everything's gonna be fine mate!"

Lastly I would like to show you a video of me and Haron from a few weeks ago. I was playing guitar for him and of course he was watching and listening very intently. I thought this was a beautiful and characteristic moment and wanted to share it with you.

Closing word Mariele Mijnlief:

When you are in a training 'how to lead a funeral', the teachers tell you: "Don't cry in the presence of the family." But they don't learn you how to do that, at an emotional funeral like this....

Lovely people,
We are nearing the end of this farewell ceremony and the moment when we have to say goodbye to Haron.

We will soon be waving goodbye to Haron in private, his brothers and Sister will take him to the crematorium themselves and will leave him there to let go.

On behalf of the family, I would like to thank you very much for your presence, your involvement and the many contributions of compassion. This really helps.

Special thanks go to the police and nursing staff who phenomenally assisted the family in that fatal night for Haron,

(during which he saved lives by the way, because he donated organs).

The attention, the time, the careful information, the understanding... it makes a world of difference, despite the shock and the immeasurable loss.
Thanks for that.

When we lose to death, we often feel powerless.
But such things, sometimes simple and seemingly small, make a big difference.
You people at home have contributed in many ways and can still do so through the web page for Haron.

Know that it matters. That it helps. That family and friends can now continue with this. Today Haron moves from the physical world here with us to the inner world of our hearts.

Death is around the corner in the lives of each of us. Know that the pain and sorrow we feel is part of love. We can learn to live in the face of death.
"Anyone who has known love in life is destined to experience grief" ... to with Manu Keirse.

But the last word is up to Haron:
Haron himself said, on the last night of his life (!):
"Death is part of life. I'm not afraid of it. I will continue anyway".

(music: Never ending tour – Ernst Jansz)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WY6cqjE7tYw>

(encore, outside of the live stream)

Rafael Matos speech:

Haron means a lot to me. He means a lot to all of us. He helped me come back from a dark side. I'm sorry I didn't let you know how much you've done for me.
One of the nice things: he often came by with his jambé. "When are we going to play jambé again?", he asked, "lets meet again and play together!"
I would play a last song for you. I learned the song at the night you died. It's about a Golden Train comes to pick you up. Will you decide to go on that train, or stay with me? I feel you will always stay with me...

Rafael Matos is singing and playing:

TEXT SONG OF RAFAEL MATOS
24-10-2020:

Don't you wake up yet
Give me some time
To watch you asleep
Oh angel of mine

And I would be fine, as long as you're near me
Oh angel of mine
But tomorrow if a golden train came to take you away,
Would you go or would you stay
Would you go or would you stay

Here in this cozy room just me and you
Cuddling and kissing, making sweet love,
Shooting star wishing and watch the sun come up
And then we'll sleep all day
Meet in our dreams and live life our way
Drop it all off and we'll fly away,
Dip through the stars and wake up slowly

But tomorrow if a golden train came to take you away,
Would you go or would you stay
Would you go or would you stay

Oh one thing I know for sure
Is my love for you is deeper then any root or stone,
Mamma told me so,
Don't walk the streets alone
Don't walk the streets alone

But tomorrow if a golden train came to take you away,
Would you go or would you stay
Would you go or would you stay