

# TESTIFY

1. To make a declaration under oath; give sworn testimony;
2. To serve as evidence;
3. To declare publicly

**Welcome.**

**We hope you are enjoying your stay.**

**Now is the time to sit back, relax and reflect.**

**We are pleased to provide this true story. Perhaps after reading this piece you will want to pick up the pen and write your own life story.**

**A story that shaped  
and embraced  
you.**

**Possibly, you'll want to share your story with others. An opportunity to submit your piece for upcoming Testify pieces is offered.**

**It is not complicated.**

**Just write from your heart.**

**Even if you decide not to pick up the pen, we trust the story you read in this little book gives you a moment of reflection.**

**Enjoy.**

**A GIANT PATRIOT**  
**How a Super Bowl Quarterback**  
**Reached Out and Touched Someone**

**Like the majority of fifth-grade boys living in River Vale, New Jersey, my 10-year-old son, Jack, is a diehard Giants fan. But unlike other classmates, Jack was rooting hard against Big Blue in Super Bowl XLII.**

**And I can't say I blame him.**

**I work as a freelance journalist. In the spring of 2002, while on assignment for Sports Illustrated For Kids magazine, Jack and I were playing with building blocks when the telephone rang. Jack, then 5 years old and honing his already impressive telephone reactionary skills, dashed to answer the bell.**

**"Hello, may I help you?" he asked.  
(Yes, indeed, he is adorable.)**

**Now, as I stood nearby waiting to be handed the phone, I listened to a one-sided conversation as my son began answering the caller's questions.**

**"Jack," he said.**

**"Baseball."**

**"Second base."**

**"Yankees."**

**"Derek Jeter."**

**"Kindergarten."**

**"Story time is my favorite."**

**"Okay, my dad's right here. Bye."**

**Jack gave me the phone.**

**"Hello," I said, expecting the caller to identify himself as a family friend, and a child-tolerant one at that.**

**"Mr. Fischer, this is Tom Brady.  
I understand you'd like to interview me."**

**Perhaps you can imagine my shock and awe to learn the identity of the mysterious caller. For here was Brady, a 24-year-old kid fresh from winning his first Super Bowl championship as the game's most valuable player, engaging my child in idle chitchat!**

**And not just any child,  
mind you,  
but a sportswriter's child.**

**This Brady guy gets it, I thought.  
He is something special.**

**As the years passed and Brady's legend grew, Jack began to understand how lucky he had been to answer the telephone that faraway day. He still proudly tells envious friends about his conversation with Brady, and he has truly reveled in Brady's on-field successes.**

**Of course, he owns a No. 12 Patriots jersey and is allowed to stay up past his bedtime whenever New England appears on the NFL's Sunday or Monday night telecasts. Jack's bedroom walls are festooned with posters of record-setting athletes, but the most prominent spaces are reserved for Brady's image.**

**Sure, the local heroes at the Meadowlands get Jack's full-throated support during the winter months, but his favorite pro football player is Brady.**

**I couldn't be happier with the role model he has chosen.**

**As the 2007 NFL season played out, and the Patriots reeled off victory after victory into early December, Jack and I began to discuss the possible scenarios of the Giants-Patriots regular-season game scheduled for Week 17. Rooting for Brady's Patriots to beat his beloved Giants was not difficult for Jack to rationalize: the Giants, after all, were already playoff-bound while the Patriots were streaking to the most perfectly perfect season in league history.**

**According to Jack, his decision to throw his support to Brady was a no-brainer, no need for review.**

**But the Super Bowl on February 3, 2008, would be a different matter. After all, unless you're a Patriots fan, it's not every season that your team has a chance to capture the Lombardi Trophy.**

**When the Giants accomplished the unthinkable--winning three straight road playoff games to qualify for a Super Bowl match up against Brady and company--I was curious as to what Jack's reaction would be to this fanatical conundrum. The resounding answer was proclaimed on the first morning he returned to school after the Giants' magical victory. Jack came into the kitchen for his pancake breakfast wearing his Patriots No. 12 home jersey bearing an additional message of his own design.**

**With construction paper, a black marker, and what must've been 10 yards of masking tape, Jack had made a handwritten sign and affixed it to the back of his Brady jersey.**

**It read:**

**GIANTS NEED LUCK**

**That much is true.**

**The Fischer family was rooting for the Giants to win Super Bowl XLII, but had the Patriots been victorious, one young Giants fan in our home would still have been extremely pleased.**

**And as for Tom Brady, well, as any Giants fan will tell you, he's got our number.**

# TESTIFY

*It's your life, live it.*

When you need a break, pick up a pen and  
TESTIFY on your own behalf

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