

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to bring to your attention the tremendous talents of a remarkable man, Robert R. Barron, Anaplastologist. My husband John and I are truly grateful to Mr. Barron for the enormous impact he has had in our son's life. Jason was the recipient of one of Mr. Barron's prosthetic ears. Jason's ear is beautiful, a true work of art, and most people are unable to distinguish the prosthetic from his real ear.

We began the inquiry process many years ago. When Jason was born with a microtia and related hearing loss we knew that we needed to conduct research into options for cosmetic solutions and possible hearing restoration. At the time it seemed that total reconstruction was the only option for the aesthetic portion of our problem.

When Jason reached 6 years of age, it was time to seriously consider surgeons to perform the restoration of Jason's outer ear. We consulted several highly qualified surgeons in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area; however, it was their consensus that the most qualified surgeon in the area of ear restoration was Dr. Burt Brent in California. Coincidentally, I had learned of Dr. Brent just two weeks prior to Jason's birth through a business associate who was beginning the process of ear reconstruction with her own son. As she was happy with her son's outcome, we scheduled a consultation with Dr. Brent.

Our appointment with Dr. Brent was very enlightening. We thought that our research had fully educated us in the restoration process, but we were mistaken. The surgical process was more invasive than we anticipated, required multiple surgeries and the outcome was not always successful. The resulting ear did not always resemble a real ear from a profile view and almost never resembled a real ear from a frontal view. In addition, the procedures totaled in the tens of thousands of dollars and only about 25% would be covered by insurance, if at all.

Reluctant to subject Jason to more surgeries (he had already had hernia surgery at 6 months of age, open heart surgery at age 1, and still required one more ear surgery), we looked for other options. I remembered an article I had cut out of People Magazine featuring Bob's extraordinary work. We brought up the subject of his prosthetics with Dr. Craig Dufresne who had been following Jason for years as part of his Facial Rehabilitation Center at Fairfax Hospital. He enthusiastically endorsed Bob's work and told us that he was the only person who could make an ear look like an ear.

After one meeting with Bob and one look at his portfolio we knew that he was **THE ONLY OPTION**. It was non-invasive, reasonably priced whether or not it was covered by insurance, and the result is an actual ear, not the resemblance of one. I was

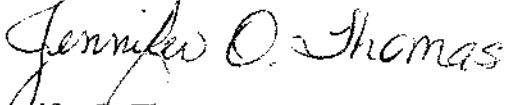
astonished to see the number of failed ear reconstructions which Bob has subsequently replaced with prosthetics. I wonder why any parent would choose reconstruction as an option for their child when Bob does such remarkable work.

Bob is an amazingly talented artist dedicated to his craft of creating prosthetics which are indistinguishable from real body parts. He shows incredible compassion towards his patients and is truly passionate about the work he does for each person. We feel sincerely honored to have one of our children wear one of his prosthetics.

Of course, Jason is thrilled with the outcome as well. He likes the fact that a real spy made his ear. And while he is comfortable without the prosthetic in some situations, he will absolutely not attend school without it. The biggest benefit for him is that he doesn't stand out as being different; it makes him just like everyone else.

We can never sufficiently thank Bob for what he has done for us. We are truly grateful to have met him and to have been the recipient of his talents. It is our hope that more families are made aware of Bob's incredible work. No child should have to endure the pain of multiple surgeries when a superior alternative exists. I am certain that upon examination of Mr. Barron's expertise you too will want to bring it to the attention of your viewers.

Sincerely,


Jennifer O. Thomas