BIRTHDAY SPEECH

FOR

SIOBHAN RICHARDSON

Hi everyone, and thank you all so much for being with us today to share “The Big One” with my wonderful, handsome, athletic and **neat** husband, Joe. Today’s his 50th -too bad it’s his age and not his golf score-**on 9 holes**! (**Wait for the laugh**). I’ll only say a few words…and then Joe can talk all he wants! Each one of you is here because you know and love Joe and even though we know he’s always up for a party, today is a **really** special celebration of and for **HIM**. Each one of you is also here because you’ve passed a certain secret “initiation.” I hope you all realize that since we are celebrating Joe … and he didn’t know this … but I originally planned on having a no eating, no drinking, no cake…no crumbs and no trash rule-just for today… I was thinking of having a “virtual” birthday party for Joe-you know-where I would just cut out pictures of his favorite foods and drinks and show them to all of you and to him-you know-maybe rub a little vanilla on the picture of the cake and smear some Guinness on the pictures of the beer-kind of give them a little “smell-o-vision” kind of thing-to “keep it neat” and minimize the clean up afterward, but then I realized all that cutting would make its own mess, so we may as well live it up!! Just keep those plates stacked with military precision- 2 piles-unused and used, each the same height-keep the cutlery in size order-perfectly parallel, and make sure all beverages are poured to the same exact levels and we’ll be just fine! … Don’t forget- **BE *REALLY* NEAT … and** **ENJOY**!! (**Wait for the laugh**)

I’ve known and loved Joe for almost half our lives so far, and I love him more today than when we first met. Joe has just gotten better and better with age and I’m sure you’ll all agree that he and I are quite a team. We’ve built a wonderful life together with our 3 great kids, Michael, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Joe is a proud and doting father, our kids are the light of his life and living proof of what a great dad he is and has been to all 3 kids. Over the years I’ve seen Joe blossom into a handsome and magnificent man. His devotion to work and providing for his family, his outstanding sense of humor, his big heart and passion for life is an inspiration… his golf game? **Eh**-not so much, but hey! You can’t necessarily have it all and that should be his only down side. (**Turn to Joe and say with exaggeration and emphasis**) Keep trying honey…we believe you **can DO IT** … eventually!!

Joe loves life. He loves music-especially the Rolling Stones; so much so, that he named his son Michael after you-know-who, and our Joe really does have “moves like Jagger.” Actually next to the man himself, Joe is taller, more handsome and will always be younger than his muse! Hmmm…I wonder if he’s also neater and more punctual than Mick? He **HAS TO BE**!!! No one beats Joe

on **THOSE** points! He’s loved the Tottenham Hot Spurs since he was 6 years old, and this gives us a couple of insights about Joe- things that I’ve known and loved about him for a long, long time: he loves sports – he was quite the footballer back in the day, and he’s loyal, devoted, and dedicated…. as long as those Spurs games begin **on time**! He believes in sharing his time and talents and passion for sports by giving back to the community with the incredible job he does coaching and inspiring the next generation of athletes through his work with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (**Name the soccer league he coaches**).

(Turn to Joe and say) Joe, I love you. I could not have asked for a better partner for my life. It’s clear to me that we’re meant to be together-destiny had plans for us. We met when we were kids and here we are. We’ve been blessed to be together as an unstoppable team for ½ our lives and even when we were not “official,” we were **one** in our hearts. I am so thankful for the wonderful family we have built, our 3 fantastic children, and the terrific life we share. You mean the world to me I wish you the happiest, neatest, most punctual birthday you could ever want and I look forward to sharing many more blessed years with you.

Let us raise a glass. I’d like to propose a toast to our birthday boy:

I pray that I’m prompt and ‘twould be a treat

For today is Joe’s 50th

It would be a feat

To keep us on time and

Make sure we’re neat

While wishing him well

And it’s not too tough

To love this guy

As we dance and we sing

Even in spite of his **crappy golf swing**!

We love you Joe, Happy Birthday!