OUTGOING PRESIDENT’S SPEECH

FOR

JEAN PAJE

Hello everyone and Happy Anniversary! I’m thrilled to be here to celebrate this wonderful milestone with all of you friends, neighbors and fellow Marcelineans. We’ve achieved quite a milestone in our wonderful organization, and we should all be very proud of our accomplishments. It is a testament to our compassion for, and commitment to, our “first homeland” that is so heartwarming and inspiring. I know that every time I look into the eyes of each one of you, a little piece of San Marcelino revisits me. Although we may have settled far away from home, together we’ve all built a thriving extension of that community of people who care and know they make a difference.

We have a wonderful presentation to share tonight as we take a moment to honor our history and achievements for the past 25 years. You’ll smile when you see some of the people who have given selflessly to build MSDI into the outstanding group we are today (**If you want to make a joke, you can say, “And I am sure we’ll also get a good look at the evolution of hair styles throughout the 25 years!!”)**. Some of you will learn of past accomplishments, others will remember how he or she contributed to building the force that has become this organization. And speaking of forces to be reckoned with, I want to extend a special hello and thank you to Mrs. Celia Pablo, one of the founding presidents of MSDI who has most recently been serving on the Board of Directors. Someone once said, “Dare to reach out your hand into the darkness to pull another hand into the light.“ Celia has not only reached into the darkness and pulled others into the light; she has taught all of us how to do it as well. Thanks to people like Celia and her fellow board members, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, the work done by our fellow Marcelineans has made a world of difference to those back home who really needed that extended hand to guide them. To all of our loyal and committed past presidents who continue to serve us and the people of San Marcelino, as officers of this organization, thank you for being the beacons you are and for lighting the way and showing us all that giving to others is the true gift.

I would also like to thank the outgoing officers (Name them here), \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, each one of you has served as trusted guides for all of us and there are many, many people whose lives have changed for the better thanks to your selfless dedication to our very worthy causes.

Tonight marks the completion of my “official” tenure as president of this fine organization. It has been a privilege to serve each one of you for the past 2 terms and I am proud to stand with each one of you, give with each one of you, and learn with each one of you. Each one of you, members, donors, officers, plays a critical roll in supporting and enacting the programs we endorse at MSDI, and your contribution has been priceless. I know I speak for everyone when I say that every member of MSDI bursts with pride as we acknowledge the outstanding growth and development we have experienced over the past few years. Some of the projects we saw blossom during my last term are:

* The 4-year high school scholarship given to the underprivileged children in our hometown. The enemy of poverty is education, and I know what team I’m on!!
* The project for special children and mentally challenged kids in our hometown has supported these young people by teaching them to develop occupational skills like cooking, baking, and sewing. By donating appliances and machinery-toasters, ovens, burners and sewing machines, we offer everyone the opportunity to feel the pride and dignity of personal accomplishment.
* (**Please name a 3rd project if possible-I think 3 points makes more impact**). I’m also really proud of the work we did with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

MSDI is a distinctive, proud and goal oriented organization that will always stay strong and focused on achieving its mission. Marcelineans have been, and will be, the standard bearer for any organization representing the spirit of culture and tradition of our beloved hometown, San Marcelino. We are the MSDI; we can proudly say that we’re part of a long-standing tradition of excellence for 25 years and counting. We’re celebrating the **FIRST** 25 years tonight, and may there be many, many more anniversaries!

As my term ends, I want you all to know that I couldn’t be more excited to welcome our new President, Mark Correa, to this venerated position. I am thrilled to work with Mark from my new perspective on our Board of Directors, and I cannot wait to support him while all us of work together as we continue to make a difference in the lives of our neighbors in our other “hometown.”

The beauty of MSDI is that we all have a great time together while implementing our charitable mission. Some who observe us may think of us as a “social organization,” but we are so much more, and 25 years of contributing to the lives of those less fortunate is gratifying testimony to the passion, tenacity and generosity of our members. Yes, we have fun, but we are also a bona fide 501 C 3 organization whose mission it is to promote brotherhood and fellowship among Marcelineans, and to support our youth in San Diego, and our poor townmates of San Marcelino. Thank you all from the bottom of my heart, for all the support you’ve contributed during my tenure!