50TH ANNIVERSARY SPEECH

FOR

NOEL DULAC

Hello everyone, and welcome to this great celebration! I am so proud and overjoyed, as I am sure we all are, to be able to wish Mom and Dad a Happy and Healthy Golden 50th Wedding Anniversary, and I am honored to have a chance to speak to all of you as we acknowledge these 2 great people and the enduring bond of partnership and love. Of course it is natural that **I** would have the chance to speak…. after all, **I AM** the favorite…. Only kidding-the truth is that I live the closest to them and I talk the loudest, so just in case there was no audio system here tonight, I get to be the one to **PROJECT**. If there’s one thing I have to say, our parents’ hearts are so big, there’s equal room for each of us, and I know that I speak for my brothers Joseph and Tony, when I say that today marks a wonderful milestone and the memories made at this celebration will last at least a few lifetimes. We are so blessed to have 2 such vital parents-of course we all know how Dad manages to keep young (**As an aside, mumble in an exaggerate stage whisper**) “**CRADLE ROBBER**!” (**Wait for the laugh**).

Joseph, Tony and I were so blessed to have been born into such an internationally distinguished family. Dad’s very name, Jean-Paul oozes class and sophistication and the “joie de vivre” that only French heritage can inspire. Mom, on the other hand, embraces her inner and outer Italian-by way of New Jersey as she demonstrates that her main philosophy of life is “**ABONDANZA!**” I don’t know If she was ever a girl scout, but what we all know is that Mom is **ALWAYS** prepared and can feed an army at a moment’s notice, and what many of you may not know is that when she turns her back while cooking-Dad’s probably right behind her sprinkling flax seeds or wheat germ into her extra special lasagna and all of those cookies! (**If she has a more “signature” dish, mention that instead**). Yes, Dad’s a health nut-I suppose he has to be, having such a “smart cookie” of a young bride, and all, and the two of them make an unbeatable team, full of enthusiasm and, once again, **abundance**-of course when we use the word with regard to Dad …… he is quite an **avid** collector… (**Name some of the more strange categories of things he loves to ~~hoard~~ I mean collect**). Those of us who love Jean-Paul have also learned to “appreciate” the staggering assortment of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ - just to name a few of his areas of specialization.

Mom and Dad are young and vital at heart and in spirit-I just wish someone would tell their legs to get with the program. (**If you want to tell a little joke, here’s one**). We who know and love them, and that would include everyone here, know that arthritis might try to slow them down, but they are troopers. It reminds me of a joke I once heard. An old man drags himself into an ice cream parlor and is barely able to prop himself up on a stool at the counter. He orders an ice cream sundae and the counter girl very politely asks, “Crushed nuts?” to which the old man replies, “No. Arthritis.” (**Wait for the laugh**). (**If “crushed nuts” is too racy, maybe you can say, “crushed brittle?” or “crushed almonds?”)** By the way-no small coincidence, butit’s believed that injections of gold are an effective treatment for arthritis. Since actual gold is almost $1700 an ounce, let’s intend that this **golden** anniversary is the cure for what ails you!

(**Turn to your parents and say**), Peeps, and Mom, you two really are **THE** dynamic duo and today’s celebration is a clear acknowledgement of the wonderful contributions the two of you have made to our world. Dad, you’ve lived a full and fantastic life. From your military service as a cadet to your commitment to your health, jobs, family and friends, you are an inspiration to all of us. Mom, we were all so blessed to have such a great, nurturing, creative and vital mother. Your spirit and talents feed our minds, our stomachs and our souls and we are all so thankful for all you do. Even with 3 kids and a job, you managed to find the time for volunteer work and giving back to those in need. Your children, grandchildren, friends and family are proud to live lives inspired by your love, generosity and humor.

I would like to invite all of you to raise a glass in honor of our happy and golden couple:

To Jean-Paul and Valerie, on behalf of all of us, Joseph, Michelle, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, Tony, Tara, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and of course Angela, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,

Congratulations on the celebration your **50th wedding anniversary**. May the pilot light of your lives burn eternally bright and nourish you both with love, respect, health, happiness, and humor, and may you only know **ABONDANZA** in all that you wish for!

We love you!! Happy Anniversary!