CONGRATULATIONS/SON’T GRADUATION

SPEECH

FOR

MINESH PATEL

Hello everyone!!!! **(If you are married, please mention your wife and other children**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and I all want to thank you for being here to share this exciting celebration. For those of you with us today who are parents, I am sure all of you understand what I mean when I say that we always knew that our children are very special, but to have our son, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ graduate from \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with such a marvelous list of achievements is truly gratifying, and not only is he smart and focused, he also must be a really great person, because look at how many people are here today to celebrate with us!! This is quite a crowd!!!

Right now it is my special privilege and honor to speak directly, as a proud father, to my wonderful son. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, I want to wish you the most sincere congratulations from the bottom of my heart. It has been a joy to watch you blossom from little baby to an alert and curious young boy; from a young boy to an inspiring and accomplished teenager; from that teenager to (**High school? Not clear what school your son has graduated from. Please say the correct school**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ graduate heading straight to medical school. At every step of the way, you demonstrated integrity, intelligence and consideration. We all admire your work … or study ethic, and you are a great example of the rewards that await those who dedicate themselves to worthy causes. You had a great high school career, wonderful A+ grades, varsity tennis, and yet still had time to find and bond with a terrific group of friends. There’s a saying that teaches us, ”You can judge a person by the company they keep,” and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, I can tell that you and your friends are good company to keep!!

Now, as you graduate from \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and stand on the doorstep of your adult life, I’d like to share some “fatherly” advice with you. I know, I know, you’re probably thinking, “C’mon Dad!!! Look at how much I’ve accomplished!!! I know where I’m going and what to do!!” Trust me, you’re never too old for some fatherly wisdom, so here it is.

Many wise people, both famous and unknown, have shared some great advice about graduation, so I thought I would contribute some of that wisdom to you.

Someone once said, “Excellence is not a skill. It’s an **attitude**.” Based on your accomplishments so far, we can safely say you have a wonderful and healthy attitude. You understand what excellence is, and you know how to achieve it. Now that you are continuing on to higher education, don’t lose sight of your goal and your purpose in life. You will be playing in a bigger arena, with people who also understand what excellence is. Work with these new colleagues to improve your “game.” Remember to rise to new challenges and not to shrink from them. Carly Fiorina, the former CEO of Hewlett Packard said of her college experience, “The truth is, I was afraid the day I walked into Stanford University.  And I was afraid the day I walked out.” Congratulations!! This is one of the secrets of life!! We all have concerns and fear about taking the next big leap in life, and it’s time to use that fear to motivate you. Think of the times you were just about to play a tennis match against a formidable but unknown opponent. Think of the rush of adrenalin and the way you approached the unknown. I am sure you entered that match with focus and determination, and bit-by-bit, you watched the situation, noticed the movements of the other player, and silently figured out the strategy needed to defeat your challenger. Going face to face with the tests and trials of adulthood is no different. Someone else once said, “We cannot direct the wind, but we can adjust the sails.” In other words, be adaptable. You are in the earliest stages of adulthood. Now is the time to really learn-you are now old enough to appreciate the lessons placed in your path. Remember to keep your eyes and ears open, ask questions, acknowledge and take responsibility for mistakes, and correct them as soon as possible, and support your colleagues to do the same. And finally, I want to share the wisdom of a man named Milton Berle. Although he was a famous comedian back in the 1950’s he showed how wise he was when he said, “If opportunity doesn’t knock, build a door.” No one is going to hand you success on a silver platter. Learn to work hard and to earn your achievements as you find the places to make your mark in the world. Your accomplishments will be that much more special.

You know I am always available to lend an ear, share some thoughts and support you to accomplish whatever greatness you believe in, but I think for right now, I’ve said enough. This is a beautiful party and it’s time to celebrate life, achievements, and the future! May we all be together and have an even bigger celebration when you accomplish your next milestone, and may we all proudly call you Dr. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_!! Congratulations!!