EULOGY WRITTEN

FOR

ED FARAH

REVISED

Wow. As Ron’s wingman, sidekick, and right hand man for the past fourteen years, I faced a lot of challenges and curve balls, but I have to say, speaking here, in front of all of you, about someone that meant so much to me, is simultaneously a blessing, a gift, a curse, and the greatest challenge I’ve ever faced. As many of you know, I am Ed Farah and I have had the privilege and honor to call Ron Ivans my mentor and friend for as long as I can remember. For those of you that know us and know our relationship, you would also know that there isn’t much that Ron could have asked of me that I wouldn’t do…. and then there was **that day**, a few weeks ago, when Ron said three little words…. Write. My. Eulogy. Oh, I’m sure he added, “Please,” but I was dumbfounded at the thought on so many levels. I didn’t want to consider that the time would actually arrive that a eulogy would be needed, I knew I had to dig down really deep inside and capture the essence of the man we all knew and loved and respected, and I had to do a couple of double takes…because let’s face it… was **THIS** his **ULTIMATE PRACTICAL JOKE??** (**Wait for the laugh**) After all, those who knew him knew how pranks came to him so naturally. I’ll never forget the time I could have **SWORN** I left my computer on my desk….

But here we are and quite honestly, Ron left such an indelible mark on my life, my career, and the way I see people, that I really want to honor him and remind all of us that his essence and his legacy lives and breathes within our souls.

Shakespeare said, “ No legacy is so rich as honesty.” I don’t think I ever met anyone with as much honesty and integrity as Ron Ivans. He was a great businessman, leader and teacher. He led by example and showed all who worked with him what teamwork really looks like. He had a moral compass like no other, and that compass led us to great success. It also led us to a real sense of teamwork, accomplishment and tradition. Because of Ron, everyone in his department inherited the practice of always wearing a tie to work. To some that might seem old fashioned, but to those of us that worked for Ron, we knew it was an outward demonstration of self-respect, professionalism, and pride in one’s work. Of course in the beginning, I wondered if he had a relative in the tie business…. I mean, he **really**, **really** wore ties well, and inspired us to do the same. Talk about the ties that bind. I know I’ll never look at neckwear the same thanks to Ron’s influence and inspired leadership. Apparently, his innate compass was not just to guide Ron to the moral high ground. It was also a really great divining rod at lunchtime… Ron was a magnetic force that drew all of us to come together and have lunch with each other every day. That was a real treat, but the best part of the week was pizza on Fridays. To some that might sound “cheesy,” but to (**Name the other guys in the lunch group**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, it was the highlight of the week-after all, we got to sit with Ron and share his wit and wisdom and garlic (**or hot pepper flakes-whatever was** **Ron’s thing, name it**) …in abundance.

For those of you that might have thought our arteries were filled with Spackle and mozzarella, have no fear. Ron, in his inimitable way, always managed to watch over us and provide a counterpoint or balance. We may have had pizza with great frequency, but we also always had the most delicious fresh fruit for an afternoon snack courtesy of Ron’s wonderful wife, Linda, and as well as Ron always shared tips, tricks and wisdom, he made sure to share Linda’s fruitful bounty with us. He was a successful, humble, funny and modest guy who really placed people first and watched out for all of us.

Anyone who knew Ron knew that the most important thing to him was his family. His wife Linda and daughters \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and their families meant the world to him. He really did live to be with them, share with them, travel with Linda-it was beautiful to witness. They were and are his priorities and to have been able to see the love, respect and humor that cements the Ivans family is a real lesson in all that is precious in life.

Ron was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer almost three (?) years ago, and although no one wants to see anyone deal with a terminal illness, in a way these past few weeks have been a gift. It’s given us a chance to find our roads to completion with Ron, and it’s given me a chance to tell all of you how much I love and respect this real prince among men. So after it’s all been said, It’s really simple. Ron Ivans left a precious mark on this earth, and my life was that much richer for having known him and been his friend and comrade. I thank him from the bottom of my heart for everything he’s done and for my family, and me, and for so generously sharing his life and spirit. I simply cannot imagine my life without him. Ron, I love you.

Thank you.