FAREWELL SPEECH

FOR

SHENG YU

Hello everyone. Wow what a turnout!!! Tonight we’re here to honor the man, the myth, the **legend** that is Dr. Paul Whelan as we congratulate him on his accomplishments and send him off to the next exciting chapter in his life and career. Paul is a force to be reckoned with. He’s intelligent and funny, sensitive and caring. He’s a great sport and an even better sportsman. He’s a born leader and a true healer. It seems like everything he touches turns to gold…. or at least that’s what I hear he tells his patients!! (**Wait for the laugh**). He has made an indelible mark for the better on this community as a colleague, neighbor and caring doctor, and as a friend, he is kind, considerate and loads of fun to be with. Except when he wins, which is most of the time…. more about that later (**Wait for the laugh).** I, for one, am very saddened to see him leave this area, and it gives me **great pain** to think that after thirty years of friendship, we will not be seeing each other on a regular basis…. of course the pain of this loss is **NOTHING** compared to what I felt having endured one of his notoriously unforgettable examinations!!! And I’m a **FRIEND**!! On **second** thought….**maybe**…… (**Wait for the laugh**). I know the women that are here tonight may not quite relate to my reference and it’s been said that men may have a lower threshold of pain in general, but trust me-the way Paul wielded that instrument- **WOW**!!! And in spite of it all, and because of it all, I am proud to say that Paul is one of my best friends. Let’s just say that Paul has **MANY** qualities that are, uh, **unforgettable**!! (**Wait for the laugh**).

It takes a strong man to become the Chief of Urology. After all, how many times can one person keep hearing jokes about the Energizer Bunny as he keeps going and going and going…. (**Wait for the laugh**). And sometimes I think it’s more than a little ironic that now that we’re all well into the age of the Internet, everyone has **I.P**. addresses!!! Paul was a visionary!! A man ahead of his time!! (**Wait for the laugh**). For some reason, when I think of Paul, I think of “single handed” accomplishments. (**Wait for the laugh**). And then I think of the **OTHER** accomplishments Paul achieved single handedly. Of course I am referring to his remarkable work in establishing the Institute of Urology. For those that witnessed his involvement, I’m sure we remember that Paul started it from **scratch**…. um… Or maybe he’s got **a pill** for that? Maybe with this crowd I should say, “from the beginning; from the ground up?” (**Wait for the laugh**)

I’m sure we would all agree that Urology’s loss is Surgery’s gain…. at least with his new responsibilities as Chief of Surgery at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, hopefully the anesthesia will kick in before Paul picks up a scalpel…or was naming Paul as Chief of Surgery a clever ploy to keep him away from sharp objects? (**Wait for the laugh**). In any event, let’s focus on the good news - he’s moving to a new city and no one knows him there, and for a few dollars, I won’t tell what I’ve been through!! (**Wait for the laugh**). In all seriousness though, Paul has truly demonstrated to the medical community what a fine doctor, inspiring leader, and true gentleman he really is. Just don’t ask his friends what **WE** think!! Hmmm… I wonder if all of these zingers will have any effect on his golf game… with a single digit handicap, maybe I can repeat this speech next time we’re on the course to see if I can psych him out!!! (**Wait for the laugh**).

So now as we bid farewell to our guest of honor and his lovely **Summer**, it’s time to wish **~~Paul~~** er… I mean **FALL** …. all the best. This town won’t be the same without you. My life won’t be the same without you here. You’ve left your mark…kind of like a dog in freshly fallen snow…. (**Wait for the laugh**) and like that mark, as a friend you’ve melted our hearts. As the consummate medical professional, you’ve given many people hope and health and second chances. (**Turn to Paul and say**) Paul, look around the room. As I said when I began speaking, this is **some turnout**, and it’s all as a testimony to who you are and how you’ve contributed to and enriched all of our lives. It’s time for you to spread that magic in a new and inviting city and all of us wish you only the best of everything because that’s what you truly deserve. I would say “**Knock ‘em dead**,” but first I would want to make sure you had some good neurologist contacts in place. I’d say, “**Break a leg**,” but then again…do you know any orthopedists in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (**Name the new city**)? Heck, I can’t even say, “**Work your heart out**,” because I also don’t know if you have any cardiologist connections yet!!! In any case, I know you’ll be the very best you can be and the citizens of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ are about to receive a real gift! Congratulations!!! We’ll all miss you very much!