THANK YOU SPEECH

FOR

GLORIA LYONS

Hi everyone. I want to thank all of you for allowing me a few minutes to speak and to acknowledge someone who has really and truly been a “life saver.” And before we all go nuts with the jokes about how I’m breaking “the mother in-law code,” I want to say a few words to express my gratitude and affection to and for my son-in-law, Jonathan.

Jonathan, what can I say? I am trying to find the words to express how thankful I am for all you’ve done for me, and I want you to know that I plan to find those words quickly and make this brief…. we can leave the telling of “sagas” to you!!! (**Wait for the laugh**) After thirty years of having you in this family, I already know where your priorities lie!! I would hate to cut into your golf time or football viewing schedule!! (**Wait for the laugh**) …By the way, I hope you think that’s funny because one of the things I love about you is your laugh!! Yes, Jonathan, although throughout the course of history there has been a litany of “in-law” jokes, I have to say, when “they” made you, “they” broke the mold. I once heard about a golfer who hit a long drive and it landed just fractions of an inch from the green. Everyone was amazed and then his partner informed him, “That’s called a son-in-law shot-it’s not what you expected, but you’ll take it.” (**Wait for the laugh**).

When you married \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, you got all of us, and we could not have been happier or more blessed. Over the years we have watched you grow up and become the wonderful and caring man you are today. Your dedication to all of us tells me you truly are my son, and I am so thankful for all that you’ve done, especially for me. We all have heard that we never know who has our back until a crisis hits, and I am so thankful for all of the kindness and concern that you showed to me when I needed it the most. The past few years have been trying to say the least, but you were there, and whether it was to help settle the issues of my husband’s estate or to make sure I received the attention and medical care I urgently needed, you have truly been a **life saver**. Without your patience and devotion, I would not be where I am today… trying to find the words to thank you and let you know that as much as you love your family and classic oldies on TV, golf and football and even those darn cigars, you are loved and cared about **just as much**. You deserve a trophy and I would give you one, except there’s no room left in the house to find a spot next to all of the ones you’ve earned for your golf game!! (**Wait for the laugh**).

It’s been said that you can tell the measure of a man by the blessings he has in his life. Jonathan, you have a spectacular wife (don’t mind if I say so myself!!) wonderful children (**Is there more than one? If only one, then say a wonderful child**), and the ultimate blessing was the arrival of your first grandchild, Reiss. Let’s face it, that was monumental for all of us-and especially you…. **finally**, a legitimate reason to have a cigar!!! (**Wait for the laugh**). We all agree that it’s the best thing that ever happened to all of us, especially **you**. Through a baby’s eyes we get to see the miracle that is life and family and a new appreciation is born with that new life.

I want to thank you for all that you’ve done, all that you will do, and for being **my** family. I’m both proud and thankful to call you my **son**!! So much for son-in-law jokes!! We love you!!