BIRTHDAY SPEECH

FOR

BERNARD REITER

SAMPLE

“Friends, Romans, Countrymen, lend me your ears…. (**Trail off and stop and say**) Oh. Wait a minute… Shakespeare accused me of plagiarism when I tried to use that line at one of my **EARLIER** birthday parties… (**Wait for the laugh**) Never mind…. ….Not that I’m hinting at my age or anything… but really…. **THIS** is what a guy has to do to get some attention with this crowd? So far I’ve had a wonderful, exciting, insightful ride, (knock on wood) and as far as I’m concerned, this has just been a dress rehearsal for the next half!! The first eighty were just practice. I’ve seen the good and the bad, much of the last century and the innovations of this one, I’ve witnessed wars and weathered storms…. (**If you want to make a joke you can say**… “And we’re still together, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_!!” **and wait for the laugh**) and as ole Blue eyes would have said, I did it “MY way.” Technically this is a birthday party, I mean, I’m pretty sure there will be cake and candles and singing, but as far as I am concerned, I am here to celebrate, honor and acknowledge all of **YOU** and to really let you know what a gift you are to me.

Life has been very, very good to me. I was blessed to be born with this DNA and it has been a privilege sharing it with my three greatest accomplishments (**name** **your daughters**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_... but more about them later! Life has thrown me curve balls and some unexpected twists and turns, but every single challenge and triumph brought me to this exact place, with all of you as my wing men and women, witnessing the lessons I’ve learned and the ones I’ve taught.