MEMORIAL SPEECH

FOR

SHAREN LAED

Hello everyone. Although today is the day we gather to mourn the passing of a wonderful woman, I would like to take a few moments and celebrate, the light and love that my wonderful Aunt Ezat shared so freely and selflessly with everyone and especially me. I have known my whole life that I am so blessed to have been born into this wonderful family, but one of the greatest joys of my life was to have the love and caring of this extraordinary woman. There is a saying that teaches us, “I am part of all that I have met.” The poet Rumi also said, “Whatever you love, you are.” If there is anything that can give me and all of us comfort in this time of grief, it is to hold those thoughts within our hearts and let us be comforted by knowing that Ezat \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ who was and is so deeply loved and respected, truly is part of us and she will live within all of us.

It’s been said, and felt, by many, that to have the gift of being close to one’s aunt is something very special indeed. An aunt is a woman who is close by blood, hopefully wise by nature, and in tune with the mysteries of our own family lives. She is someone probably similar in age to one’s mother, but has the advantage of perspective-someone who is close but not so close that she is unable to understand the way her unique and special family works and behaves with one another. Aunt Ezat was that kind of person. She was loving and warm and as good as gold. Each one of you have your own experiences and memories of this powerful and generous woman. To me, she lit up a room when she entered. Her personality and smile shone brightly and led the way for everyone in her path. Her love was as genuine as a diamond and her heart was as true as gold, and if the saying I mentioned earlier is true, and I believe it is, and I am part of her and she of me, then her gifts of life and love and brilliance are priceless.

Aunt Ezat, I know that somewhere, somehow, your spirit is with us and you are smiling down as we remember all the good you left in this world. I am your niece that your son Behrooz named and Bijan brought my son into this world. You were blessed to have four devoted sons, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and in turn I was blessed as well. Because the boys were so special in their own ways, we had a special bond and I will never forget how you always told me that I was the daughter you didn’t have. You treated me exactly as you did your own children, and that is a blessing I will never, ever forget. Your spirit, strength and ability to love so completely are inspirations to everyone you knew, especially to your family and your legacy will live on in each one of us.

Aunt Ezat was my father’s sister. I was so lucky to have such a special and energetic, loving woman watching over me throughout my life. She was there to celebrate the good times, but more importantly she was there, right by my side through the challenging times as well. No matter how difficult a situation might have been, she was there. She was truly an angel who loved me like a daughter and showed me how to celebrate life and the people who mean the most.

There is a well-known author named George Eliot who once said, “The golden moments in the stream of life rush past us, and we see nothing but sand; the angels come to visit us, and we only know them when they are gone.”

To Aunt Ezat, thank you for your love, your support, your spirit, and the lessons you’ve taught all of us. Life rushes by way too quickly, but for a time, your light shone on all of us and your memory will guide us through our lives forever. We will always love you and honor your cherished memory and we are grateful there is one more very special angel in Heaven.

Thank you.