REUNION SPEECH

FOR

ANGELITO CADIENTE

Hello everyone!!! It’s so wonderful to be here to celebrate this great combined reunion!!! Some of you may remember me…. or not…. some of you may recognize me…. or not… but deep down inside, we have an unbreakable connection between us that clearly has lasted for our entire lives… and today is proof of that! I am Lito Cadiente, Dalton High School, Class of ‘69 (**HS- please check this and change to ’68 as needed**) and I am thrilled to be here with all of you!! Back at Dalton High I wasn’t a class officer. I wasn’t part of any team leadership. I wasn’t an athlete; never voted to be anything, but it wouldn’t surprise me if back then I showed up on that **OTHER** coveted list … Most Likely **NOT** to Succeed… (**Wait for the laugh**). As a teenager I was interested in good times, girls, motorcycles, rock n’ roll and not much else. Come to think of it, now that I look back on those days I suppose my life was a harbinger of the times… it was the carefree 60’s that heralded the dawn of a new world… back in 1968, the Beatles found their Maharishi, young adults were finding their voices, and it was the onset of one of the most revolutionary, youth inspired, turbulent eras in modern times. In fact to many, it was the **beginning** of the modern world as we know it today. To me, 1968 (**HS- Please check- were you the class of ’68 or ’69? You mention both in your notes- please correct the one that’s not right. Thanks**) was so much more than our graduation year. I had gone to five different high schools just to reach that point of graduation (**If you want to make a joke you can say**) … Don’t ask… you can read about it in my memoirs… (**and wait for the laugh**). High school graduation definitely signifies a turning point and ’68 was the year we went our separate ways. We began our lives as young adults…. whether we wanted to or not.

There’s so much that can be said about the passage of time and the meaning of reunions…. after all, our time in high school was so many **HAIRS** ago…. (**Wait for the laugh**)… (**You can say**)… Wait… I’ve got more!! I look around at all of you and I think about movie titles that come to mind as I recall all we’ve been through… “The Way We Were?” “True Grit?”… By the way, that was one of the hit movies back in ’68…. but I can’t help thinking that if our kids were looking in on this reunion tonight they’d see more “50 Shades of Grey” and I mean that in the **LITERAL** sense!! (**Wait for the laugh**)

We’ve shared some unforgettable moments and experiences and whether or not we were best friends, nodding acquaintances in the hallways, or strangers, we all have one thing in common. Throughout our time at Dalton we got an educational foundation that has clearly lasted a lifetime. It’s been said that “A teacher affects eternity; he… or she can never tell where his or her influence stops.” There is one person who is the embodiment of that adage. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ has dedicated her life, her patience, and her considerable knowledge of relevant Bible verses in support of those of us that were lucky enough to be in her sphere…. and get **“invited”** to the Principal’s Office. She has taught and inspired generations of Dalton students and graduates, and we are so honored to have her here with us today…. Let’s face it; even though a lady never tells her age, being 94 years young is a privilege bestowed upon few. And although I’m pretty sure she has better places to be … with more well behaved people… we all owe a debt of gratitude to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ . And to show you just how much you influenced our lives and how truly unforgettable you are to thousands of our fellow graduates, I would like to quote a passage from **Proverbs 22:6** “Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.” You see, Ms. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, we **WERE** listening!! (**Wait for the laugh**)

This really is a once in a lifetime moment and I am so glad we had the chance to get together. I would say that by looking around at this crowd, we’ve done all right for ourselves. Crosby Still, Nash and Young may have urged us to “Teach Your Children “ well two years later in 1970, but I think we were all getting the same message and throughout our lives, as we learned we taught. Thanks to all of you for lessons learned and memories old and new, and may we meet again to share even more of them! Thank you!!