90TH BIRTHDAY SPEECH

FOR

ANDREA GANZ

Hello everyone!! We all know why we're here today and that’s to celebrate an extraordinary milestone for an incredible human being. It's taken him almost an entire century to get to this point and for each one of us his love, savvy, and "**saychel"** (**do you want to use the Yiddish word for wisdom/smarts?**) have gotten him.... and all of us... by association... **very** far in the world. Some of you may know him as **(name his army rank**)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Others may call him "Mr.," or "Arnie" or "Grandpa." Just **DO NOT** call him late for a business discussion! He's kindled so many fires in his very productive lifetime and I wouldn't be surprised if he were actually the muse who inspired one of the most famous lines in cinema history.... Who can forget the scene in the opening of “The Graduate" where Benjamin Braddock pops his head ... In full scuba gear... out of that pool at that backyard graduation party to be greeted by Mr. McGuire's prophetic declaration.... **"… Just one word…PLASTICS!!!"** (**Turn to your father and say)**, Daddy... I always wondered… **DID** you **actually** know Mike Nichols?? (**Or** **instead** **you can say, how many times DID you see “The Graduate??”**) (**And wait for the laugh**).

Yes... I am blessed and proud and so grateful to call this man **DADDY**. Dad, your roots are in the heart and **chutzpah** of New York. You’ve seen a lot of action… from the ”sumptuous” dining rooms in the “legendary” palaces of the Catskills to the European Theater of Operations in World War II to that magical day in Sun Valley where everyone gathered to have a good time… of course you **HAD** to be napping at the time because how else would you have opened your eyes to find the most gorgeous snow bunny just waiting to make your acquaintance…. Yes Daddy, after you’ve had a sufficient beauty sleep there isn’t a person on earth who could resist your inimitable charm… and certainly not that vision that eventually married you and gave us life… Thanks Mom!!

And what a life it’s been… for all of us and especially you!!! Your determination and focus inspires me in everything I do… although to most you seemed so concentrated on business, to me you were, are, and always will be **Daddy**. I cherish the times we’ve shared and whether you were reading me a bedtime story or giving me priceless business coaching, every day I thank my lucky stars that I have your DNA. Each one of us here, your family and friends that love you the most in the world, are so thankful and thrilled to celebrate you, your life, your accomplishments and your legacy. Just look around…. It’s incredible to be able to share this day with Irwin who knows you longer and better than just about anyone… I bet he could tell some stories!!! …. All of us- your kids… Austin and Cheryl, Harrison and Heidi… your gorgeous, smart, talented grandsons, Bradford, Evan and Jordan… hmmmm wonder where they got all of **THEIR** talent and good looks (**Wait for the laugh**), your great old friend \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (**name the WWII vet who will visit by skype**) …. I bet the two of you have some pretty interesting war stories…. no **REALLY**!! And what about my Bob?? I love the relationship and the bond the two of you have and I also have to say that if I don’t shut up soon he may be forced to quote Henny Youngman… “I take my wife everywhere but she keeps finding her way back” (**Wait for the laugh**)… sorry Honey… we have GPS’s now… and of course all of this could not have been possible without the light of your life, that vision of the slopes, the woman who gave polish and chic to everything in our lives, Mommy. Ah… the two of you… what a combination!!

I would like to invite each one of you to raise a glass as I propose a toast to the man who gave me life, love, smarts and savvy.

I think it’s safe to say that a man can measure his riches by the love, respect and honor in his life. (**If you want to add this you can**) and pay no mind to Henny Youngman who also said, “What’s the use of happiness? It can’t buy money!“ (**Wait for the laugh**) As I look around this room it’s clear that you’re the richest man I know. Daddy, thank you for all that you’ve done for each one of us… for the friendship, love, lessons and respect you’ve so generously shared. I’m so blessed that you’re my father… Happy 90th Birthday and thank you from the bottom of my heart! I love you!! We all do!!