**14642, Jeffrey Morris**

Good Evening Ladies and Gentlemen,

I want to welcome all of you for joining with me, my wonderful wife Sue along with our children and grandchildren to help me celebrate my 70th birthday. Family doesn’t always get the opportunity to be together as much as we did when our three children were growing up but I’m so thankful we have remained close and that they are here with me tonight.

I have always loved having a large family because I grew up an only child in the Bronx in New York City. Things have changed very much since then. We were relatively poor when I was growing up but I never knew it because our home was filled with lots of love and we didn’t worry about what we didn’t have. We concentrated on what we did have, while we worked hard and loved those we cared about. I remember that I slept on a convertible couch until I graduated City College of New York, then I went to University of Pennsylvania.

At that time tuition was $1900. That was a lot back then but it is a whole lot less than tuition is today no matter where you go to school. I am very grateful for my education and the career it allowed me to have all these years. I am a firm believer in earning a good education for both the career benefits as well as the many lessons you learn while in school. It prepared me to be a life-long learner and has helped me live a better life.

The most important people to me are my beautiful wife Sue, our three children and of course our 6 grandchildren who are age 13 to 2. Sue and I have been married for 46 years and they have been the absolute best years of my life. Sue is truly a great person, and a wonderful mother and grandmother. She has always been very warm and giving. Sue has filled my life with joy and happiness and is a wonderful example to our children and grandchildren of how to live life well.

One lesson we taught our children was the importance of having a good work ethic. Nothing in life is free and no one owes you a living. That’s part of why I still work as a dentist. I’m not ready to retire and I believe a person should work until they are ready to retire, not retire when the government or anyone else tells you to. I love my work and my patient’s love me so I think I’ll work a while longer.

Another lesson we taught our children is the importance of children and family. This is bar mitzvah weekend for my oldest grandchild. I just returned from Ireland on a golfing trip with him as a present for his bar mitzvah. A boy’s bar mitzvah is a turning point in his life and I wanted to make sure he understood how important it is to him and how special he is to me. It was wonderful to spend that time together to celebrate a time honored event in his young life.

Sue and I have shared so much in our lives. We both grew up in financially poor families and worked very hard to overcome our childhood poverty so we could provide a better life for our children and grandchildren. We did a lot of travelling together through Israel, Ireland, South American and Australia while making our home right here.

We have a good life and we count all of you as important parts of our lives. Thank you all for being here tonight to celebrate my 70th birthday with us.