ANNIVERSARY SPEECH

FOR

DANIELLE SPRESSERT

Hello everyone and thank you for joining us for this wonderful celebration. You all know… and I am sure you all agree… that family means everything, so we are twice as proud, honored, happy and thankful to be **DOUBLY** blessed. Tonight we are here to honor my parents Peter and Maria, on the occasion of their fiftieth wedding anniversary and it’s also my father’s **SEVENTY-FIFTH** birthday!!! (**If you want to make a little joke you can say**) Wow… Mom and Dad… That was really good planning… Marry Daddy when he’s twenty-five and have a really big blowout celebration every twenty-five years!! Double the pleasure, double the fun!! Double the reason to get up and dance!! Who do YOU know that loves to get up and “cut a rug” more than these two??? … And if you know my parents like I know my parents… that’s what they live for!! What’s better than being the life of the party? And who’s better at being the life and the legend at your **OWN** party! Come to think of it… they also **LOVE** playing tennis… but given all of the crystal around this room, it’s probably better that they dance tonight and save tennis for the outside!! (**Wait for the laugh**).

Mom and Dad, this legend of a marriage began long ago… back in the “old country”…. And by that I mean Queens and Manhattan… where ALL true legends were born and made. There must have been something in the water back then because you two are the most special people I know. You both have undeniable resilience, a passion for life, a strength for survival, a love for family and the Italian way of living that is so rare and wonderful, especially in this day and age. Your joy for celebration is infectious, and I for one…. am so proud to have caught that bug!! Your combined strength as the most dynamic duo I know shines through in everything you do… in every challenge you face… in every crisis you conquer. Your smiles are unforgettable; your pride is an inspiration. Individually you’re forces to be reckoned with. Together you’re legendary!!

Each one of us is a part of all that we’ve met and faced, but I really do believe that the challenges you two have faced brought you a greater appreciation of what it means to be alive and to be able to share moments like this with so many wonderful friends and family. Mom, you taught (**Name your brother**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and me what it means to be beautiful, to be nurtured, to come from a loving and caring home, and to care about the ones we love. You taught us that a magnetic smile and a genuine love of people and life could heal and be cause to celebrate. In spite of all you’ve been through you are an inspiration as a wife, mother, grandmother, friend and neighbor. You’ve taught us that there is always hope, that every cloud has a silver lining, that friends are like diamonds, and what it means to have really crazy, side splitting, good old fashioned fun….

Dad, how did I get so lucky to have you as my father? You are my strength, my wisdom, my guide, and most of all, my **DADDY**. You might have started out in Queens…. many great people have led the way…. but you really showed what you were made of as you did your country proud in the Navy and then as you worked your way up to be VP of Tuscan Farms Dairy. You taught us the value of a good education, you taught us respect, you taught us what it meant to be a professional, but most of all you and Mom taught us what it meant to be proud of our Italian heritage and how family comes first!!

Over the years you’ve gotten to reinforce that message with (**Name your brother**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and me, and your beautiful grandchildren, my kids Sabrina, Stephen, and Pete are blessed to be carrying on the traditions and lessons that mean so much to you. Family is the most important thing and your grandchildren proudly carry the legacy you are teaching them.

It’s such an inspiration to see how in love the two of you still are, even and especially with fifty years of marriage to claim. You’ve traveled the world and shared your spirit and joy, and there are so many people that have learned to love and appreciate life just by watching and learning from the example you two set. And whether it was in Europe, Cape May, the Catskills, or any other place you graced with your larger than life personalities, you left an indelible impression at every point along the way. Tonight is all about honoring your anniversary and Daddy’s birthday, but the truth is, **WE** are the ones that have received the greatest gift of all… your love, support, inspiration, and fun.

Frank Sinatra has said, “I would like to be remembered as a man who had a wonderful time living life, a man who had good friends, a fine family- and I don’t think I can ask for anything more than that, actually.” So from the Champ and me, Daddy’s little girl, your beautiful grandchildren and all of the friends and family here to whom both of you mean the world, we wish you lots of love, happiness, health, and anything you might wish for. Sinatra did it “his way,” and we are grateful that the two of you have lived your life and inspired us “your way!!” Happy Golden 50th Anniversary, Happy 75th Birthday, and many, many more!!! We love you!!