**15492, Aparna Sadineni**

Good Evening Ladies and Gentleman,

Thank you everyone from coming tonight and helping me to celebrate my wonderful daughter. For those of you who Meaghana, you know what a quiet girl she is, but do you know she has a short temper? Don’t worry though, she gets over being mad just as quickly as she gets mad. She just tends to have a short fuse if you annoy her, especially first thing in the morning. She really doesn’t like mornings. Otherwise, she is very smart and talented and tries her best to take things in stride.

Meaghana, Words cannot express how proud I am of you and how much I love you. You are my daughter, my first-born, and a true light in my life. The 17 years since you were born have come and gone with astonishing speed. I remember vividly how, as an infant, you loved to watch TELUGU MOVIES. As I think about you over the years and reflect on you now, the word that keeps coming to me is “blossom.” You are so beautiful, physically, emotionally, and intellectually. It is as though you have simply blossomed into an extraordinary young woman.

I know, of course, that it hasn’t been simple, and that the years ahead won’t be simple, but I am absolutely confident that you can handle anything that comes your way. And you know you can always count on me (and Mommy) to be there for you. You know, Mommy and I have tried to raise you to be independent, but there is a big part of me that is not looking forward to you leaving for college next fall. Honestly, I don’t know what I will do when you leave home. The house will seem empty, and I will miss you more than you could possibly know. And it is that realization that underscores further what an incredible young woman you are. Meghana, to me your 17 years have been life’s most beautiful and wonderful moments, and I can’t wait to see what the future will bring.

Andre Maurois once said, “Conversation would be vastly improved by the constant use of four simple words: I do not know.” <http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/quotes/a/andremauro158003.html>

Meaghana, you have studied hard and learned much. But, never be afraid to say you don’t know something. Admitting you don’t know something is the next step toward your next lesson in life. It will encourage you to be a life-long learner. As Carol Burnett once said, “We don’t stop going to school when we graduate.” This successful lady had it in a nutshell. Life is learning and we must be constantly learning and growing.

Tonight we celebrate my beautiful, smart and talented daughter. But, I know she doesn’t want to be made the center of attention this way, but since I’m the dad, I guess I get my way this time. Just remember Meaghana, honey, you can do something similar to the children you have many years from now. LOL

Thank you everyone for coming. Enjoy yourselves tonight.