**15555, George Hornby**

Good Evening Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am thrilled to welcome all of you to this celebration of my mother, Beatrice Hornby’s birthday, her 100th birthday. I want to thank the ladies of the VFW Ladies Auxiliary here in Palm Coast for hosting this celebration. I have to say that I have the best mom in the entire world. She has accomplished so many things in her life and I am so proud of her. I especially want to welcome my five cousins, two grand kids and four great grand kids here to share this momentous occasion.

During WWII my mother worked in the shipyards and her friends call her Rosie the Riveter. She actually read the blueprints and told the other workers what to do. They couldn’t interpret blueprints. She also worked at an RCA factory as a Quality Control inspector for the manufacture of radio tubes. Later she retired to take care of my father’s business. My Dad passed away 20+ years ago but he was pretty amazing himself. He was a taxi driver and owner of 22 taxis. He also liked to play the ponies, but that was just his hobby.

My mother had three sisters and one brother who have all passed. I am her only child and at 71 years young I do my best to keep up with her. I love my mom and care very much about her so I’m very excited to be to celebrate Mom tonight with all of you. She has always been a very active person. She was never one to sit quietly while the world went on around her. She passed along that desire to live life to the fullest to me. She taught me to dance when I was 12-13. She sent me to the Jersey Shore in Highlands, NJ every summer until I was 16 and she took me sport fishing with her friends. I joined the Navy during the Vietnam War and was a submarine sailor for 6 years. Then I was an auto mechanic before and after the Navy and I worked on my Dad taxis. Then after the Navy I went to college, earned a degree in accounting and I still work for a CPA firm. I live in San Diego and only get to visit my mother in Palm Coast FL once or twice a year.

Even at 100 years young, my mother teaches 1 hour Jazzercise three days a week and attends the Friday dinner and dance at the VFW Hall. She is so active I have trouble keeping up with her. She is sharp for her age but has a short term memory problem, yet her favorite T.V. programs are Jeopardy and Wheel of Fortune. My mother does have some more sedate hobbies for times when she wants to spend her time more quietly. During those times her hobbies are knitting and crossword puzzles. But it is rare for her to sit still and do nothing. That was never her way.

Happy Birthday Mom. I love you.