50TH ANNIVERSARY SPEECH

FOR

LOU ORTON

Hello everyone… What a wonderful evening for a celebration! And what an even **MORE** wonderful **REASON** to celebrate!! I am Lou and it is my honor, my privilege, and my infinite pleasure to say a few words of congratulations and acknowledgement about two of the finest and most treasured friends anyone could ever wish for. Plays have been written, poems have been penned, and since time immemorial, song lyrics have tried to put into words the miracle we are witnessing tonight. Ira Gershwin came close when he wrote, “ It’s very clear, our love is here to stay…” Alice and Boy, **YOU’VE** both made it **very clear** that love is real and lasting and when two people honor one another with love and faith and respect, marriage thrives….

As I look around this room, I see a living biography of this wonderful couple. There are friends and colleagues that go way back, like (**Name a couple of old dear friends- one for Alice and one for Boy**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ who has known Alice since they were \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ who met Boy at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and of course there’s me. I have been blessed with Alice’s friendship for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ years and all I can say is that she is one of the most endearing people I know. Her love of life… and of Boy… are an inspiration to all of us.

Each face and each presence here tonight holds a piece of the history that forms the foundation of this wonderful marriage. While some of us may have danced at their wedding and subsequent anniversaries (**Is anyone going to be there that was at their wedding? If so, maybe you can acknowledge them**), I am sure you’ll agree that **THIS** one is the sweetest so far. I see children and church friends, extended family, colleagues and neighbors, and all of us are united in being a part of the lives of these two great people. Each person here has a unique perspective of Alice and Boy and that has been their gift to us.

I have to say… being close friends with this couple isn’t very challenging!! They love life and appreciate living it to the fullest. From treasuring precious family time to appreciating fine dining, from traveling to places like (**Name two or three places you’ve traveled with Alice and Lou**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ witnessing just how much they savor every moment… and each other… is just great to see. And who loves a party more than this couple?? That’s another reason this night is so special! (**If you want to make a little joke you can say**) Sometimes we have to “endure” friends and acquaintances. Some might even say being around certain people is “**No day at the beach**…” but we can’t say that about these two!! They also **LOVE** relaxing drives to the beach and lucky is the person or people that get to join them!! (**Wait for the laugh**).

There is definitely a winning formula to having a sustained, fulfilling, loving marriage for fifty wonderful years and these two have that formula. As the Bible teaches us in Corinthians 13: 4-8, “ Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud…” Alice and Boy know how true that is and they live their lives to demonstrate mutual love and respect. They know that no matter what time and fate may throw their way, they made a Godly **promise** to one another. They kept that promise and every day their bond has grown stronger.

I would like to invite you to raise a glass as I propose a toast:

To Alice and Boy, Gershwin may have cautioned that in time “the Rockies may crumble, Gibraltar may tumble; they’re only made of clay…” But you’ve shown us that **YOUR** love is here to stay!!! Congratulations and here’s to fifty more years of health, happiness, friendship, family and **LOVE**!!

Thank you all!