**15763, Bradford Baliad**

Good Evening Everyone!

I want to thank you all for coming today and sharing in the celebration of my mother’s 80th birthday. It is so good to see both friends and family here. I love my mother very much, and I know my siblings share that love. It means a lot to the family that Mom’s friends are here to share this day with us.

We are so thrilled to have made this country our own, having emigrated to the U.S. from the Philippines when we were between 4 and 9 years old. We experienced a lot of changes when we came to the U.S. and many different kinds of culture shock. But, our mom made sure we made the adjustments and learned how to succeed here. She was a nurse who cared very much for her family. She was a strong and independent woman who worked hard to put all four of her kids through college, and she is much loved by her family as well.

My mother was a pastor’s wife with strong religious beliefs. She was very often stoic but in the midst of that we always knew that we were loved. Not only was she a tremendous nurse, but she was a hard working nurse, often working overtime to help support the family. Our mother was strict but she taught us how to live our lives in a way that honored God. She set the example for us in how to treat other people and to always be kind. With all of her hard work and the lessons she taught us, she also tried to give us everything we wanted.

Birthday parties can be stressful or they can be lots of fun. I’m hoping this one can be more fun that Mom thought possible. She always tried to make our birthday celebrations special so we have done all we could to make this one special for her. I know Mom is not interested in playing kids games or going to the local pizza place and play games and use up tons of tokens. But, we have planned a great time with friends and family, some terrific food that includes your favorite cake, and we have a beautiful venue here to hold our celebration.

I want to encourage everyone to take the time to visit, socialize, and have a great time. We rarely have the time to get everyone together like this so let’s all take advantage of this wonderful opportunity. I’d also like to thank the owners of this venue for working so hard to make this night so great. Your hard work is greatly appreciated.

Now, I’d like to ask everyone to raise a cup of punch and join me in a toast to our mother on her 80th birthday.

Mom, may every day you live be filled with joy. May you have every opportunity to enjoy your children and your grandchildren for many years to come. And may God bless you with every good thing.