**BUSINESS SPEECH**

**FOR**

**CATHERINE RIZZA**

Hello everyone!! I want to take this opportunity to wish all of you a happy, healthy, productive, and prosperous New Year. Although in reality, the transition from year to year is nothing more than the passage of time from one day to the next.. as it always is, actually acknowledging completion and anticipating what's lies ahead by turning that symbolic page to a clean slate brings with it the invitation to take a long view... to envision the future and to plan for continuity.

Throughout the past twenty-five years of my tenure as President, it has been a privilege to work with each one of you. We've seen a generation of shifts and changes, new technologies and regulations, yet through it all, the dedication to excellence and service and the commitment to loyalty so consistently expressed has been the one great constant here at (**Do you want to name the company? Not sure if this is for the Cryogenic Center or the Cord Blood Bank...**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Over the years we've seen a lot. We've collectively risen to challenge adversity, we've banded together to work as an effective and productive team, we've learned together, and we've supported very special bonds between us... the lifelong friendships, the marriages, births.... **all of it** has contributed to the strength and uniqueness of this company. Yes. We've gone through many changes.... especially in the last few years...and as we all know, there were lots of factors to consider as we evolved. The day to day running of the business has always kept us on our toes... especially me, but there were several landmark events that tested our mettle... and we prevailed. (**If you want to make a little joke you can say**) In general, "moving the molecules," whether in business or in other arenas, takes planning, preparation, and precision. For us, "**moving the molecules"** takes all of those logistics to unprecedented heights.... as they literally are the foundation of every aspect of our lives and work. Relocating our laboratory from Newton to Marlborough could have been daunting, but with outstanding cooperation it went smoothly, thanks to you. We also moved our Brookline lab to Newton, which is now across the street from our old location... pretty ironic... isn't it?!?! The company is poised to grow and serve our expanding "community," and that is a very positive state in which to be.

(**If you want to mention your husband... as a tribute you can say**) Through the recent past we have also endured challenges and loss that tested our core.... with the passing of my husband, John, the structure of this company was forever altered, yet it became evident that our mission would prevail thanks to the legacy we had envisioned.

Over the years, two people have given us more than a glimpse of what the future of this company will look like. (**If you feel it's too formal to use their full names, just say first names... I was thinking to say full names provides a greater element of professional respect, but it's up to you**) Joseph Rizza, our Executive Director, and Karen Rizza, our General Manager, have done exemplary jobs in their current posts and it is because they have acquitted themselves so admirably that I have chosen to acknowledge **their** participation by easing up on mine. All of you know that Joseph is a direct, straight-to-the point leader, an asset beautifully balanced by Karen's boundless energy and commitment to efficiency. For these reasons, both have inspired me to, as Joseph would say, "**MAKE IT SO.**" Henry Ford said, "Coming together is a beginning, keeping together is progress, working together is success." I am confident that as I cut back on my responsibilities, Joseph and Karen will be the leadership team that takes us forward to the next generation. (**Do you want to say anything about being their mother? If so you can say**). As a mother I cannot imagine being more proud of the talents and abilities of my children. As a professional, I am impressed, encouraged, and inspired by their collective vision.

I am very proud of the contribution our work brings to the lives of our clients. I am humbled to think of the challenges we face and the constant need for vigilance on all fronts. And whether it's being on the vanguard of innovation, supporting best and most streamlined and effective business practices, or establishing and supporting an environment that encourages and acknowledges dedication and participation from our greatest asset, **YOU**, I am eager and ready to witness the new era here at (**Name the company or companies**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. I know that with cooperation, alacrity, and great enthusiasm for our future, all of you, as a team, will **MAKE IT SO**. Thank you all!!!