**BIRTHDAY SPEECH**

**FOR**

**LISA MEADE**

Hello everyone!! Thanks so much for being here to honor this wonderful woman, my mother, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, on this momentous, LANDMARK occasion... today we celebrate the **ninetieth** birthday of the most incredible, brilliant, beautiful person I know, or as we call it in this family, Happy **SEVENTY-FIFTH** Mom!! (**Wait for the laugh**). (**Please add your mother's name here**). Just so you know, a few weeks ago, I mentioned to Mom that we would be giving her a birthday lunch in her honor. When she asked me how old she was going to be, I responded, "Well, what do you think?" She said, "Seventy-five," so that's that!! Since today is her day, if \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ chooses to be seventy five, that's fine with us!! Of course that makes her just a few years older than Dolly Parton who also recently celebrated a birthday... I just thought I would throw that in for perspective.... My mother may not have a theme park named in her honor, but today, instead of "Dollywood," we will all take a wonderful ride, right here, at **MOMMYWOOD**!"

Henry David Thoreau said, "None are so old as those who outlive enthusiasm." All who know \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, are blessed to have the opportunity to learn from the best. Looking on as her daughter, I know that it has been one of the great gifts of my life to have a mother as singular as she has been and anyone that comes into contact with her gets a front row seat on a very special, unique master class about life. She is classy, generous, extremely patient, loving, and boy is she funny!!! She's interested in so many things.... theater, politics, her friends... and most of all, she remains **INTERESTED**. And although she may not have a "**set of lungs**" like Dolly, (**... and wait for the laugh... or ... if you think that's too much, you can say "she may not sing like...." instead**) she is our bright and loving light.

(**Give a few sentences about where she was born and where she grew up, any highlights or anecdotes about her earlier days, something about meeting your father - if you think it's appropriate, etc**). \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ was born in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, 1927, or as we have rewritten history, **1942** (**wait for the laugh**)... she grew up in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and it was back there that her inimitable character was established. Her wit, wisdom, and compassion for others have all been built throughout a lifetime devoted to curiosity, learning, and respect for everyone who had and has crossed her path. She met my father, Bob, back in \_\_\_\_\_\_ (**Turn to your mother and say**), Mom.... are we revising that date **too**? We don't want it to seem like Dad broke any rules (**laws?**) or anything.... (**and wait for the laugh**). She and my father.... what a couple!! He adored her so much... and no matter how much he relied on her for everything, they enhanced each other.... her devotion to him, his watchfulness and caring for her... their marriage was a give and take that taught us all the meaning of relationship.

Her living legacy lies in her children, Julie, Chip, and of course, me, and fortunately someone was smart enough to teach us that we are all a part of all that we have met, and as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_'s legacy continues through her grandchildren, Amanda, Matthew, and Natalie, the world becomes a better and more gracious place.

So many people that know my mother have only the kindest words and highest praise for her.... her building staff never stops letting us know what a lovely person she is. Her aides and attendants tell us how great she is to work for, and of course I'm sure that each one of you, her family and dearest friends, can tell special stories of just how much \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ means to you..... even my husband, Dennis will go above and beyond and prove his devotion to our gentle, caring, gracious birthday girl... sometimes he shows that devotion with action.... like crossing a cultural divide....and eating her gefilte fish at Passover (**Say this with exaggerated seriousness and wait for the laugh**). (**Note: I didn't understand who Marie is so I didn't include a mention... please clarify and I will add as necessary**)

Mom, you're ageless, your timeless, and you've been one of the greatest gifts to me in this lifetime. Thank you for being vigilant in maintaining your grace, humor, and love for all of us no matter what. In my heart, I celebrate you every day and I count my blessings that I have learned and been loved and guided by the best. I know I express the sentiments of everyone here when I say that we wish you the happiest and most delicious of birthdays anyone might wish for.

We love you.... Happy Birthday!!!