**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT SPEECH**

**FOR**

**ANNE SCHUSTER**

Hello everyone. Tonight is a very especial occasion in celebration of the achievements of an extraordinary gentleman and professional. We are here to acknowledge the contributions of a man to his community. To all of you he has been a colleague, a doctor, a friend. To his family, he is and has been **EVERYTHING**. We are all so blessed to have been befriended by and cared for by a wonderful human being, my husband, Dr. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

For someone to be able to claim a career of thirty seven years is special. To be able to have made a mark on a community for that span of time as a respected doctor is really an inspiration. So many of you have benefited from his innate compassion, intelligence, and wisdom, and I, along with our family, have been witness to his steadfast dedication to his work.... no matter what. Through challenges and unspeakable personal tragedy, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ has never wavered in his commitment to his patients. No matter what was going on, no matter the devastation he endured, he always continued to perform his duties in a valiant and stellar fashion.

Dr. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ graduated from \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Medical School in 19\_\_\_\_. He always demonstrated a tremendous passion for medicine and at an early age knew his calling and heeded it. When we met, he was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ years old and even at that age his determination was unique and impressive. Throughout the years \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ repeatedly exhibited the characteristics and qualities that made him stand out to me and to his colleagues in his field. My husband has always been an unusual and distinctive individual in his area of medicine, consistently going above and beyond in every aspect of his professional career. He has been loved by patients and associates alike. When I see his demonstration of commitment.... when I witness his unrelenting dedication to his work... when I observe his non-negotiable mission to do his best for all, no matter the time requirement, I know that his gifts and contribution to all of us have been superhuman. His attention to detail, his compassion, and his incredible and resounding logic honor his profession and each aspect of his life. It's so rare to see a man so committed to his purpose and it has always been an honor to stand by his side through all of it.

There are many ways that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ has impacted the medical field throughout his impressive career. (**Please mention two or three examples**). I will never forget when, back in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, he \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Some of you may also remember the time \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ did \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. I know another instance that so clearly demonstrates this. It was when \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. With each action Dr. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ has shown us just what excellence in healthcare looks like.

Someone once said, "The mark of a doctor...... is truly ***ILLEGIBLE***..... (**Wait for the laugh**)..... but we all know that the impact of a doctor's great work lasts for a lifetime. I am so proud of the mark my husband has left in this field and in this community. And I am also so incredibly proud of the family he has come home to.... after impossible days and sometimes interminable hours. Dedication like that can have its downside, but we have always believed in the work he has done and our family has always understood the sacrifices and concessions required of a family that is blessed to have such an extraordinary husband and father. As I said earlier, during his career we endured the tragic death ... of our youngest daughter, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and even though totally devastated, he performed his duties in a stellar fashion. (**Acknowledge your other children**). I know I speak for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ when I say what an honor it is to have been part of the love and support that has encouraged this great doctor to accomplish the important work he has achieved over the years.

Dr. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ now leaves an impressive legacy to emulate. We hope the bar has been set for intelligence, integrity, compassion, endurance and grace under pressure. There's an expression, "I am part of all that I have met." Each and every patient, colleague, and co-worker has left an indelible mark on my husband. You've all taught him.... and yourselves.... to operate at greater levels of excellence, and it is our hope... and intention, that the work done by this great doctor continues to inspire positive outcomes in the field of medicine for years to come.

Thank you all!