**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT SPEECH**

**FOR**

**KENNETH GOLSTON**

Hello everyone. I’d like to welcome all of you here. (**If there are any peers or event organizers you would like to acknowledge, you can do that here**). I would like to thank \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, I want you to know that we really appreciate your presence here with us tonight. It’s always a treat to have the opportunity to get together with colleagues, associates, family and friends, and although I am sure that we all **LOVE** being in the office (**Say that with exaggeration and wait for the laugh**), seeing all of you here, in this refreshing change of atmosphere sheds new light and perspective on each one of you, our connection, and what you mean to (**Name the company**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Although we are usually bound by the parameters of work, tonight we’re gathered to acknowledge excellence.... and by that I mean we will recognize the enduring contribution of a truly remarkable employee, Ken Wehling.

(**Name the company**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ has been in business for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ years. In that time we’ve seen “the changing of the guard.... **several** times.” We’ve seen employees come and go, we’ve see the business face challenges and successes, we’ve been tested, we’ve faced competition, we’ve endured growing pains and industry updates and mandates. We’ve endured the onslaught of the tech revolution, and we’ve learned to adapt with the times. (**If you want to make a joke you can say**) Show of hands.... who’s been around long enough to remember when the fax machines arrived??? **Ahhhh the good old days!!!** (**And wait for the laugh**). In that time, we’ve also observed and benefitted from the dedication, resourcefulness and enthusiasm of certain very special colleagues. Tonight we celebrate Ken Wehling, a man who I have to say is in a class by himself.

Ken’s been with us for sometime.... **thirty-five** years to be more precise. That accomplishment alone would have been enough to merit distinction.... after all, with all of the shifts and turns in the industry and the professional marketplace in general, tenure of that length is more like a unicorn.... an amazing mythical ideal, but with Ken, that kind of dedication shows all of us what authentic, human “renewable energy” can yield. What’s even more impressive is that he continues to raise the bar.... for himself and his own performance, and in turn, he shows all of us what enthusiasm and hard work look like. He is an asset to his team and an inspiration to all of us in more ways than I can mention now, but there is one milestone in particular that I would like to recognize. As most of you know, Ken recently completed a level 4 training program in just **ONE YEAR**... an accomplishment that is **unprecedented**. (**If you want to make a joke you can say)** A feat like that is truly remarkable and makes me wonder......

A. How did he manage **THAT**???

And

B. Is it time to make the training more difficult??? .... **THANKS KEN!!! (Wait for the laugh**)

Ken Wehling is the kind of employee that company owners and executives dream about... in a **GOOD** way... He’s been an employee that knows “the drill.” He has extensive knowledge of our company history as well as an almost encyclopedic experience and knowledge of our systems and how they function. Over the years, Ken has cemented his place in the foundation of (**Name the company**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and it’s very gratifying to have such a productive relationship with someone so dedicated to our success.

General Colin Powell once said, “Success is the result of perfection, hard work, learning from failure, loyalty, and persistence.” For the past thirty-five years, Ken has experienced the gamut of trials and challenges, but no matter what presented itself to him, he has always been driven to resolution. While we all strive for ideals, it is the truly valued and valuable employee that considers the **whole** picture. Success is based on thinking “globally” about your work responsibilities. It has to do with looking “beyond” your desk or you responsibilities to see to it that your colleagues are also okay. Dedication doesn’t cease when the clock strikes five or six or whenever. To be blessed with employees who treat their work commitments with a sense of ownership is one of the greatest gifts a company owner can receive. To know his or her staff is truly invested in the success and overall health of our endeavor is just, well, very encouraging.

I want to say that it is people like Ken that drive the health of this business and fortunately, although tonight he is our “man of the hour,” I appreciate all of the work all of you accomplish. I want to acknowledge each one of you for facing adversity, dealing with competition, finding ways to creatively problem solve, and for participating in our company culture in ever evolving ways. I value each one of you.... it’s no accident that you are collectively our “Human **Resources**.” Thank you for bringing your ingenuity, curiosity, and determination to our venture. It is people like all of you, and Ken.... **Remember him???** (**Wait for the laugh**) that allow this company to endure, and for that, I say thank you!