**BUSINESS SPEECH**

**FOR**

**JUSTIN DENNIS**

Hello everyone and welcome! It is both a privilege and a pleasure to gather with all of you tonight as we celebrate one another and acknowledge the achievements and accomplishments that have contributed to the growth and success of ATP for the past year. I know I echo your sentiments when I say that I am thankful every day for the opportunities we have here at ATP, but at this time of year, it’s encouraging and gratifying to be able to express that gratitude communally, with all of you. After all, a company.... a business. a community... is only as strong as it’s most valuable resource.... and that is all of you.

We are here, celebrating, because of the vision, determination, and perseverance of one man in particular- our founder and chairman... our true “original pilot,” Derrick Dennis. Derrick, as our company evolves into the next era, I want to take this opportunity to thank you for all that you’ve done for all of us. Of course I have a unique perspective... one that has been a blessing and inspiration throughout my entire life. You’ve been an innovator, leader, and mentor to so many of us, and as your vantage point in this company shifts and elevates, we look forward to receiving even more wisdom and inspiration as we continue to evolve and innovate. To Lisa, thank you so much for planning this terrific celebration. You have done a wonderful job organizing and hosting this event. The spirit of our company and its optimism is reflected in the details and atmosphere that surround us tonight and we appreciate all that you’ve done to make this evening so special... and of course I want to thank all of you... our colleagues, employees, and most of all our families that support and encourage each one of us so that we can invest our time and dedication to the continued growth, success, and excellence of ATP.

2017 has been a year of change and impressive growth. As Derrick takes on the roll of Chairman, I am honored and humbled to now be the President of this company, and it is with great humility and a well enforced sense of purpose that I look forward to building on our success and to conquering even greater challenges in the coming months and years. Please rest assured that this is an evolutionary change... one that has been in the DNA of this company for quite a while, and now is the time to reposition in order to implement even more growth and innovation. Derrick is by no means “ retiring.” He founded this company over thirty years ago with a unique vision and the determination to bring his innovations to life. I have been blessed to have literally learned “at the feet of the master,” and from a very early age, through osmosis and relentless, purposeful exposure, I eagerly learned my lessons about life and business in a concentrated, immersive environment.... you see, when I was in high school, my dad and I shared an office. While I was learning my lessons, I had the privilege of observation. I watched and listened and saw how a true leader conducts himself. I learned how he thinks, what he values, and how he cares for and respects his employees and colleagues. As I became increasingly interested in the business, my involvement and participation grew as well, and while my father and I have different strengths, it has always been my purpose to implement Derrick’s vision to practical, functional, innovative scale.

When Derrick began this company over thirty years ago, he was a maverick. He has always been extremely good with people, and that was, and continues to be, a key to our success. While the two of us have different sets of talents, we share a common objective and understanding of our intentions and direction. We are aligned on achieving our purpose. Although we may no longer share that first home office, we have discovered that the world is our “think tank.” Several times each week, for an hour or more, we get together and take a long walk... we walk and talk about ATP and what we’ll do next, and just as I sat and overheard my father when I was younger, we are joined by my son Joshua, who, we are quite sure, has born witness to our enthusiasm as Derrick and I get all fired up about that next great idea.... Joshua is inheriting the passion and learning new vocabulary by osmosis... after all... he’s still in his stroller... (**Wait for the laugh**). ... Derrick and I are confident that we are nurturing the future of ATP in many ways.

It has been a challenge... but most important... a great privilege, to contribute to the growth of this company and the strength of the aviation industry. It is exciting to be a part of an organization that is experiencing such exponential growth. In just the past year alone, we have increased our staff by 100%... that is something about which to be very proud. We are also gratified to be a part of so many people going on to successful and lucrative careers in our industry, and we are poised for even more growth in the next year as we invest in aircraft, facilities, and of course, people. As we grow, the challenge to maintain our quality and integrity grows as well. Although we happily celebrate tonight, tomorrow will find us with a renewed and increased sense of purpose... one that raises the bar on the caliber of services we offer, and in turn, the excellence and efficiency of our staff, students, and graduates. Coach Vince Lombardi once said, “The quality of a person’s life is in direct proportion to their commitment to excellence, regardless of their chosen field of endeavor.” At ATP, we have made, and will continue to encourage, a climate of excellence, innovation, and respect for all. I am proud to be a part of this mission and thankful that we have such an enthusiastic team.

I would like to propose a toast...

Here’s to success... for our purpose, our graduates, and for all of you. To the ATP team, who give so much of yourselves to this company, and to your families, may 2018 bring you happiness, health, prosperity, and excellence. Thank you all so much!!