**FAMILY REUNION SPEECH**

**FOR**

**RON CAPATI**

Hello everyone!!! It really is great to be here... can you imagine??? We’ve traveled halfway around the world, but thanks to the people that came before us and built a life for **ALL** of us, it truly makes the world a very small place. It’s an unbelievably heartwarming feeling to know that we can travel so far and yet still be “home.” That’s the power and the magic of **family**.

I would lie to ask all of you to take your assigned seats so that we can begin.... It’s a real honor, along with my siblings, whom I shall introduce shortly, to sponsor this year’s reunion in memory of our father, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and I would like to invite all of you to share a moment of silence as we remember my father and his siblings, (**Name the siblings**): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. I think it’s safe to say that **NONE** of us would be here without the love, guidance, and wisdom of these wonderful people and although they are no longer here with us physically, they truly live on in each one of us. It’s a privilege to honor their memory.

(**Silence**).

I would like to acknowledge some people that have done a terrific job in seeing to it that all of us would be able to come together in this wonderful spot. (**Name the people that organized the event**) To \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, I know I speak for all of us when I say “Thank you.” Thank you for organizing the events, the food, the accommodations, and most of all, the fun parts of this reunion. Everything you’ve done.... every detail you’ve included, has made this reunion more special than we could have imagined.

Some of you more distant relatives might be wondering, “Who ***ARE*** these people that have come all the way from the United States to be here with us??? (**Wait for the laugh**) .... we’re your **COUSINS**!!!! And there are enough of us gathered here to fill this resort!!! Can you imagine??? .... Allow me to introduce my siblings, “the American delegation...” ....sounds a little like the Olympics, doesn’t it? Well, I’d say this is the **FAMILY** Olympics!!! (**Wait for the laugh and then** i**ntroduce your siblings**) Im here with my brothers and sisters, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. I would also like to introduce my beautiful wife, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ who is dedicated to keeping our branch of the family tree growing and flourishing! ... and after you’ve met all the rest, that leaves me to introduce myself.... (**Introduce yourself and do your surprise performance**).

(**When you acknowledge the person that started the reunion, Name how many years ago it started**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ years ago, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ had an idea. He wanted to organize a family reunion so that his family.... **OUR FAMILY....** would know the importance and richness of being connected to our relatives and our history. Over the years, our family tree has grown, branch by branch, leaf by leaf, and today it’s really amazing to see so many of us that have come together in celebration. A wise man once said, “In every conceivable manner, the family is our link to the past and our bridge to the future.” As our branches spread further, our roots grow deeper, and our stories and lives, no matter how spread apart we think we might be geographically, intertwine and come together. This is the first year we have attended this very special occasion and I am very sure getting to be with all of you has changed our lives forever...family is everything!!!

So now let’s get ready to move on to the **IMPORTANT** stuff... great food.... super opportunities to relax and have fun .... clever contests...amazing prizes....we all **KNOW** Capati’s Got Talent.... but where are the hidden **SUPERSTARS**??? We’ll find them!!! We’re all so excited to be here and spend this great time with you, our **FAMILY**.... Let the fun begin!!! Thank you all!!