**50th ANNIVERSARY SPEECH**

**FOR**

**RONITO CAPATI**

**SURPRISE**!!!! Hello everyone!!!! It is such a joy to be here and to be able to celebrate this incredible occasion honoring two incredible people. This is such a special moment, in fact, that I wouldn’t have missed it for **THE WORLD**.... Literally. ... and I **DIDN’T**!! Jun and I have been best friends for over forty years and I haven’t seen either Jun or MIla for the past thirty-five years.... so I am sure that all of you understand that this is really a sweet, **sweet** reunion and a precious gift for both of us. I believe that if we are very blessed in life, we will find a few good friends to join us on our journey. If we are **REALLY** blessed we **MIGHT** find one friend who is more like a brother.... someone who understands and is there... no matter how many miles may separate... and Jun is that **BEST** friend to me. It is an honor to travel to be here and to share this very precious time with Jun and MIla and with all of you. (**Name the child that helped you with the surprise arrangement and acknowledge the other children as well**) I want to acknowledge \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ who knows the importance of our friendship and who assisted me in keeping this very **BIG** surprise. To (**Name the other children, spouses and grandchildren if you think it’s appropriate**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, I want to congratulate you for choosing the **BEST** parents anyone could ever wish for.... and it’s times like these that make everything worthwhile. As we see all of you together, we can see the true definition of a beautiful family.

Jun and I met back in 1976 when I joined the Philippine Air Force and was stationed in Zamboanga City. Our friendship grew and we became very close and in fact, I stayed for a while with Jun and Mila. Of course the fates recognize a good situation and worked their magic.... yes... I even met my wife, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ while staying at their house!!! You can tell how connected we all are!!! Clearly we can see that Jun is the kind of person who is in it, as “they” say, for the **long haul.**... he’s demonstrated his unfailing loyalty to his family and he is always looking out for their well being. He’s hardworking, steadfast, and wise.... of course... I **KNOW HOW** to pick great friends!!! (**Wait for the laugh**) ... and Mila is a dedicated wife, a loving mother and grandmother, and is just the kind of person anyone would want to be around.... so, yes... Jun knows how to pick a **GREAT WIFE**!!! (**Wait for the laugh**) ... together, this **DYNAMIC DUO** are without a doubt, the best couple that I have ever associated with and I miss them and their family dearly.... like I said.... there’s **NOWHERE** else I would rather be than right here, right now.

The main purpose today, and the reason why we’re gathered is to congratulate two wonderful people on the occasion of their **FIFTIETH** wedding anniversary... **FIFTY YEARS**!!! I know we’re all wondering.... “How have they managed to ‘keep the magic going’ for so long??? What’s the secret to their success?” I mean, we know they’re devoted to one another and we know they love their family, but what’s that little “something” that has allowed this marriage to endure for half a century? I think the answer can be found in the wisdom of a famous American comedian, Henny Youngman, who was kind enough to share **HIS** marriage tips.... when asked he would say, “My wife and I have a special technique for preserving our marriage. **WITHOUT FAIL**, we make sure we go out twice each week... a lovely meal at a great restaurant.... dancing... pleasant atmosphere.... I go on **Tuesdays** and she goes on **Fridays**....” (**Wait for the laugh**).

Someone once said, “There is magic in long distance friendships. They let you relate to human beings in a way that goes beyond being physically together and is often more profound.” I’m grateful for whatever kind of friendship and connection I can share with Jun and his bride of fifty years, Mila. We’ve witnessed the challenges and triumphs in each others’ lives and no matter the distance, our bond remains strong and special. A long time ago, I heard it said, “Happy is the man who finds a true friend, and far happier is he who finds that true friend in his wife.” Jun, on this Golden Anniversary, I want to offer my deepest and most sincere congratulations to you and Mila for understanding the importance of love, respect, commitment, caring, and most of all, **friendship**. Congratulations and Bless you both! Thank you all!!