**EULOGY SPEECH**

**FOR**

**EVA FRANCIS**

Hello everyone. We have gathered today to celebrate and honor the memory of my father, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ who passed at the age of ninety-five. As we might expect, living to that extraordinary age is, in itself, testimony to the quality and character of a very special person, and I, along with my sisters and brothers, had the privilege to call him **ours**.

A lot has been stated about “**The golden years**.” Ancient philosophers have said, “Old age: the crown of life, our play’s last act.” Others have said that as long as we still keep learning, we never get old. Getting to be ninety-five is a gift denied to many people, but my father **earned** that gift... he was blessed with a love of mankind and a keen appreciation of all that life has to offer. He learned from the struggles and challenges of his youth and spent his days sharing his very special blessings.

My father was so much more than his age. He was a humble man, devoted to his family, his business, and his disciplines. He cared about the quality of life and he worked towards setting and achieving goals, both business wise and personally. There’s an old proverb that goes, “Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime.” Those are very powerful words... now think about it.... what does that say about the professional fisherman? He took his dedication to his practices and literally fed a village. He did that by caring, and building on the principles in life that meant so much to him while respecting his family, his community, and the world around him.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ was also a wise and disciplined person. While he worked hard, he made sure we all learned by example, and I don’t know anyone that set a better example than he did. In his simplicity for life, he exhibited a humble yet strong and determined grace, and I am thankful for my father and for who he was... as a parent, a teacher, and a constant beacon of goodness.

I think my siblings would agree that although there were **MANY** lessons we learned, there were **FIVE** main principles of success that influenced us and taught us how to live life with reverence and appreciation.

* He believed in **leadership** and was a natural born leader in his community. Much like the old proverb, he led people, he taught them, and he fed them with ideas and friendship that lasted for a blessedly long lifetime
* He was a strong advocate of **self-care**. While he had only a high school education, my father showed the world the importance self-respect. He taught by doing. He learned by being interested, and he possessed something more important than book knowledge. Native smarts cannot be taught. It’s a gift that we get, and the greater the gift, the more fully engaged in life people are. My father was one of those fully alive, vibrant souls that knew of the importance of knowledge and made sure he used it to develop his own personal well being and success. He understood many health and dietary principles for eating well. He innately grasped and explored the benefits of eating fish. While scientists and nutritionists may debate certain topics, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ offered living proof of the benefits of having a sound mind and a body to support one’s dreams and missions in life.
* While he came from a small village, he had a deep grasp of business and I will never forget his talent for **entrepreneurship**. He understood that there is no such thing as a “small business.” If customers and neighbors needed you, your services, or your product, you were a vital part of the life and pulse of the community. He fished with passion and purpose. He served and nurtured his community relentlessly.
* In his own way, my father exhibited **brilliance** and really, by observing his thought process, he taught us to stretch our imaginations and think beyond our limits. He taught us to dream. And keep in mind, as I said, he had no formal secondary education, but he had a world class memory and a scientific mind. What was so remarkable is that his thought process and logic stemmed from his own brilliance. Even with no formal university knowledge, the theories and phrases he used have been proven scientifically by researchers. He was also able to understand and perform complicated mathematical calculations... all in his head! I was always in awe of that particular talent. (**If you want to make a little joke, you can say**), ... you know it’s been said that fish is “brain food.” I guess my father was the embodiment of **THAT** theory! (**Wait for the laugh**). I must say that I truly believe I learned more from my father than all that I learned studying for my Master’s degree!
* And boy, did he show **dedication**! As I said, he was a devoted father, friend, and neighbor. He came from a place of love and compassion and spread his kindness liberally. He was a quiet yet impactful leader, a devoted family man, and a true friend to his community.

It’s hard to believe that he’s no longer with us, but \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ had ninety-five years to leave a lasting, positive, legacy. His ten children, \_\_\_\_\_\_ grandchildren, and countless neighbors and friends.... all of you, will share his spirit for years to come. He was a blessed man and we are all that much more blessed to have known and loved him. Thank you all.