**“ROAST” SPEECH**

**FOR**

**GEORGE SAVINE**

Hello everyone.... First of all, I want to say how impressed I am at the size of this room and the multitudes that have turned out and shown up for this event.... with any luck, those of you all the way in the back probably won’t even hear me!!!! Just keep in mind... I’m talking about Rex... it’s not going to be that Interesting!!! (**Wait for the laugh)**.

(**If there’s anyone you want to acknowledge for organizing or planning the event, do that here**).... I’d like to thank \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for all of the magic you’ve created on a modest budget... **HEY**!!! We’re accountants!!! We’re known to watch every penny!!! But all jokes aside, if we can’t “turn it up” for someone as great as Rex... then **WHO**?? (**Pause a second and name some other colleagues by first name**) ... oh wait... there’s Jack or Jim, Mike .... Ed... (**Wait for the laugh**)

All jokes aside.... Naaaahhhhh **not** **really**.... Tonight we’re here to celebrate the life, the legend, the wit and wisdom... the incredible, outgoing, charming, **LIKABLE**, friendly, musical, talented..... **SHALL I GO ON**??? ... witty... sporty... did I say **friendly**??? ... dynamo we fondly know as Rex Kaup.... Rex, after all of **THAT lengthy description** ... are you **SURE** you’re an **ACCOUNTANT**????? (**Wait for the laugh**).... Talk about going against type.... tonight you are receiving a Lifetime Achievement Award.... let’s be honest about this... most accountants would be **ASLEEP** by this time in the evening... and honestly most **already** **LOOK LIKE** they're sleeping.... (**Wait for the laugh**)... one other thing... for **MOST** accountants, just **STAYING AWAKE** is a **LIFETIME** achievement... but not **OUR REX**.... we got the **LIVELY** one... the one that makes a difference... the one who can add, subtract, balance the books, and **STILL** play a round of golf... or **three**... with his many many friends.... I looked up “**anomaly**” in the dictionary, Rex... and there’s a picture of **YOU**.... smiling and having fun... lucky for all of us... you’re a special and noteworthy exception to the accountant myth!! You’re the profession’s **UNICORN**!!! Rare, colorful, and a delight to behold!!

So much has been said about the exotic beast we all know as “the Accountant...” Who can ever forget the poignant words of Milton Berle who said, “The company accountant is **shy** and **retiring**... He’s **shy** a quarter of a million dollars... That’s why he’s **retiring**...” (**Wait for the laugh**).... Thank goodness for all of us, Rex knows his math!!! The singular focus of accountants is well known... **usually**... of course Rex broke **THAT** mold as he perpetually demonstrates his engaging personality, his passion for so many interests and activities, and his dedication to his family, friends, colleagues, and community.... one of the standard benchmarks of the profession would be, of course, a legendary work ethic... after all... the classic accountant is.... **BORING**??? Nah... let’s say dedicated... driven... directed... which leads us to pose the question... “How do you know when an accountant is on holiday??? .... He’s **not** wearing a tie and shows up late on Saturday... like **8 am**!!! (**Wait for the laugh**).

But... yes... our Rex... he’s one in a million... a rare breed... just ask his family... Rex has been married to his wonderful wife, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ years... She’s a cardiac rehab nurse.... I **KNOW** there’s a joke in there somewhere... give me a minute or two.... oh...right... As a level headed, calm accountant... Rex would almost definitely have **HAD** to marry someone in the medical profession... and clearly \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ realized marrying an accountant was her destiny.... so she could regularly check for a pulse!!! (**Wait for the laugh**)... There is also much that has been said regarding marrying an accountant. I heard a potentially sad story... a woman was suffering from a mysterious illness. Her doctor broke the bad news that she probably had just six months to live and had just **ONE** practical solution... “Marry an accountant,” said the doctor.... “Why? “ She asked...”Will that help me to live longer???” The doctor looked the woman in the eye, grabbed her hand in a comforting gesture, and softly said.... “No, unfortunately... it will just **SEEM** longer...” (**Wait for the laugh**). Thank goodness for Rex and his beautiful bride, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, their mutual devotion and love of life, each other, and of everyone here is testimony of what is possible.... when an accountant stays **awake**!!! Rex, I know I keep reinforcing the boring accountant stereotype, and clearly, you’re the one that broke the mold... the one man that’s great with figures who has been ready, willing, and able to outpace mediocrity.... the shining light at the end of that dreary, dark, abysmal financial tunnel... but I’m having fun, so let’s continue... (**Wait for the laugh**).

Rex and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ have two beautiful daughters, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (**Do you want to mention the daughters’ husbands? If so, you can say**) and along with their respective husbands, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ are halfway to a basketball team with three terrific grandsons, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. I want to acknowledge (**Name the two daughters**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for having successfully grown up with an accountant for a father...... we all know that as adults we’re subjected to financial scrutiny, adhering to budgets, watching every penny.... I can only imagine what allowance day was like in your household.... I once met a woman whose father was a CPA... talk about high finance!!! She had an older brother, and every Sunday, her father would gather both of them together, call a meeting to order, calculate the proportionate age difference, multiply by some unknown factor, carry the two and subdivide... By the end of negotiations, between whining and deductions assessed, she remembers clearing forty seven cents a week while her brother “cleaned up” by “scoring” a **WHOPPING** fifty two cents... he was two years older.... don’t worry... cost of living increases were reviewed and added... and “they” say accountants are boring.... not to a seven year old waiting for her weekly candy money!!! (**If the daughters are present, you can say**) Girls, I hope your allowance history was a little less arduous with your Dad!! (**Wait for the laugh**).

Rex, through all of this, what I am trying to say is that we are all so blessed to know you... to work with you, to laugh with you, to witness your creative calculations on your golf score cards... (**Wait for the laugh**) ... but most of all to say **thank you**... for being you... for bringing us joy, for sharing your boundless energy and humanity, for blasting our eardrums with your endless renditions of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ on your sax.... Young, Oakes, and Brown has been in business for over one hundred years.... you’ve been an integral part of the firm for almost **TWO** generations... that’s in **people** years... in **accountant** years??? ...More like **one hundred and seventy five**... (**Wait for the laugh**)... and no matter how hard you might try.... **thank goodness**, the firm is strong... (**Wait for the laugh**). I am thankful to know you, grateful to work with you... and eager to.... wind this up... I **KNOW** your cheeks are probably hurting from laughing so much at my **STELLAR** witticisms... (**Wait for the laugh**). I’m not really sure of how many premium Cross mechanical pen and pencil sets you’ve worn out in your fabled accounting career, but I **KNOW** you’ve more than earned every single one. (**Do you want to present a new cheaper disposable mechanical pencil set... like a 12 pack from target... to him as a little gesture/joke?**) As a gesture of appreciation, I’d like to present you with this small token of our thanks... they may not be gold filled, but let’s face it... you’re a **SUPERSTAR** now, one who actually uses pencils less and less.... after all you’re so busy enjoying life, being **FABULOUS**, and spreading your magic.... (**Wait for the laugh**).

To this year’s Lifetime Achievement Award recipient, Rex Kaup, I think we can attest to the fact that all of the praise... all of the accolades... all of the fun, respect, and admiration **ADD UP**... you bring **BALANCE** to everything you do.... you deserve **CREDIT** for all the contributions you make personally, professionally, as a dear friend, a respected partner, and as a dedicated member of our community... We are all **INDEBTED** to you for your abundant generosity, kindness, brotherhood, and great humor.... (**If you play golf with him you can add**).... **NOW** will you let me win a few rounds of golf???? (**Wait for the laugh**).

Congratulations!!! Thank you all!!!