**RETIREMENT SPEECH**

**FOR**

**TENZING PARMENTER**

Hello everyone, and on behalf of the team here at\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, thank you for being here. Although many, if not all of us, have been in this conference room a number of times for all sorts of situations and sessions, none of those visits here have allowed this room to serve as a vessel… a context… a monument, if you will, to commemorate the legacy of a man… the myth… and the career of someone that means so much to us…. Sounds impressive, **NO**!?!?! (**Wait for the laugh**). For the past several weeks, the accolades have been pouring in…comments like… “An apple a day keeps the doctor away… but if the doctor is cute, I’ll skip the fruit!!” … “He seemed so smart and talented… I wonder why this is referred to as a‘**PRACTICE’**”…(**Wait for the laugh) … “**That’s **SOME DOCTOR**…butwhat about that medical assistant!?!? **WOOPS**!!! Wrong list!!!! (**Wait for the laugh**).

The truth is, there is a **real** list… with real heartfelt, glowing memories, endorsements, and comments from friends, colleagues, and patients. It just isn’t possible that these very special comments have been exaggerated… if anything, they understate the trajectory of this man … someone I have known for over twenty years…. as a doctor, a mentor, and a friend. There is a line in the poem “Ulysses” by Alfred, Lord Tennyson, where he tells us, “I am part of all that I have met.” Think about it…. We’ve met, served with, learned from, laughed with, debated, and have grown from, our deep, personal and professional associations with Dr. Dan Friedmann, and thankfully, as we all contributed to his life, he has definitely contributed to ours and has become a part of all of us. How lucky and blessed are we??? When we were younger… whether we were ill or recovering… whether we sought advice or challenged a diagnosis…. Whether we planned a procedure are administered care and comfort, we got to observe the movements, intelligence, common sense, and yes, humor, of this wonderful man. …. And **JUST** when it was getting **REALLY GOOD**, he goes and retires on us!!! (**Wait for the laugh**). I suppose we can adapt a fairly famous quote and say, “Tis better to have learned, laughed, and lost… (not **really** lost)… than to have never done so at all.”

We’ve received dozens of testimonials about the impact that Dr. Friedmann has made on so many of us … (**I am just listing highlights from the attachment received-as a preview of the comments- not giving names**). Sentiments and praise like the following snippets help us to build an image of the man we honor today: “Dr. Friedmann is humble, an astute physician, and his patients absolutely love him. He has great empathy….” “He is inspiring to his team…” “Never one to shy away from sharing his thoughts, he always did so with humor, fairness, and the clear objective of making care better for patients…” . And of course, the obvious… “**BOY**, do you have a big following!!”

From my own point of view, I can easily say this… I have worked closely with Dr. Friedmann for 15 1/2 years… keep in mind that this started out as a two week trial… I guess I forgot to leave!!! (**Wait for the laugh**)… then again, why would I! I saw in this man what you all have seen and admired, and I got to work and study “at the feet of the master.” He has been a mentor, a father figure, and a driving force for me throughout the past decade and a half. I have observed Dr. Friedmann through changes and challenges, and he maneuvered himself, and the practice’s staff, with intelligence, grace, common sense, and more than a splash of humor. I’ve seen the practice morph from a small one to being an integral part of a huge national organization, but as our leader, Dr. Friedmann never lost sight of the essence of his work…why we do what we do…. and that is to be there for the people… the patients who put the “family” in family practice. Yes. Dr. Friedmann “got the message.” He knew that innovation, done the right way, would serve his patients and allow his impact and expertise to be appreciated on even more expanded levels.

In Ulysses, Tennyson goes on to state, “…Yet all experience is an arch wherethro' gleams that untravell'd world whose margin fades….” It is now time for Dr. Dan Friedmann to “go through that arch” to a newer, greater, uncharted world…. The time has come for the doctor to put on a different hat… to use new tools to discover new passions… greater pursuits…. And maybe some **funnier** anecdotes… (**Wait for the laugh**). I know I speak for all of us when I say, with a great deal of confidence, that whatever path he chooses, the world and the people he meets along the way will be better off for knowing him, as is the case with all of us.

Dr. Friedmann, I promise you, this place will **NOT** be the same without you, but we will carry on, do our best, keep the phrase, **WWDD** (What Would Dan Do??) close to our chests, and if all else fails, get ready for lots of texts and phone calls!!! Thank you all!!