**BIRTHDAY SPEECH**

**FOR**

**MATT BROWAR**

**REVISED**

Tonight, we’re celebrating the birthday of one of the “good ones.” Alan, it’s hard to believe you’ve been on this earth for **SEVENTY YEARS**!!! I've known you for 40 years and we have each been available to one another 24/7/365 ....as is evidenced by our cherished, frequent exchanges… we’ve managed to check in and check on each other with at least one or two phone calls per day.  Whether we spoke for business or pleasure, to share crises or theories, you’ve consistently and thankfully been my go-to person… no matter what. One perfect example of 24/7/365 is when my mother-in-law got sick while on a remote island off Costa Rica. We had to figure out how to airlift her to safety and medical attention from that remote location.  It was a chaotic, uncertain, scary time. You were my go-to person, my first call at 2 am in the morning, and you got the job done. You’re not only a great businessman and an astute observer of situations and solutions, you’ve also been a lifeline when many of us needed one.

If we were to go to the dictionary and look up, “Alan Gleicher,” first of all, there would be a great picture of you…. and the definition would state, “Someone of noble character, a person to admire and to emulate.”  In the Yiddish dictionary, the word for that would be **Mensch**.  I think we can all agree that the man we celebrate tonight is a Mensch among men. As we all know, Alan is very bright, extremely patient, positive, kind, and very sensitive… in the best ways possible, just to name a few of his core attributes. In this day and age, I sometimes get concerned that we may risk losing sight of what truly means something in this world. We get caught up in the “stuff” of life… the minutiae… without acknowledging and honoring the substance and **VALUES** that really count … the qualities that matter and hold us together in our friendships…. Character, integrity, compassion….Alan, on those really important benchmarks, I can honestly say that you, my friend, remain **priceless**…

This man has enriched the lives of so many people, and whether it’s family or friend, business associate or neighbor, he has made a difference. When I think of Alan… which is clearly often and with admiration, I have to say that Nancy and I and our lives have felt the positive impact of Alan’s influence in so many ways.  Our association with Sanford Burnham is directly through Alan. Learning about, and participating in Backroads trips has given us thrilling memories, and most importantly **forcing** … I mean **encouraging** (**Do you want to say that with emphasis, pause, and wait for the laugh?**) us into playing golf has clearly changed our lives. Alan, as I look back at our rare and wonderful friendship, knowing you has been akin to winning the Masters. (**If you want to add a little joke, you can say**) … but believe me when I tell you that I **REALLY** don’t need a bright green jacket to commemorate our friendship!! Your goodness and spirit are with me wherever I go.

You will always and forever be the Bush man to Nancy and me….  And you know **exactly** what that means.  Lastly… and one of the more important things that you have taught me… is to never end a conversation without saying “I love you.”  Well, Alan you are one of the best friends anyone could ever wish for, Happy Birthday and I love you buddy. Thank you!!