**BIRTHDAY SPEECH**

**FOR**

**MATT BROWAR**

**REVISED**

Hello everyone! I’m Matt Browar, and I am the lucky person who gets to call Mitch “Brother.” I would like to take this opportunity to thank Joan and Mitch for hosting tonight’s dinner and for allowing me the opportunity to say a few words. Tonight, we’re here to celebrate a milestone for our host… the man… the myth… the good friend and consummate professional. So much has been said about the advantages of getting on in years… “seeing the light…” earning a clearer understanding of what life is all about through experience. It’s believed that Satchel Paige once asked, “How old would you be if you didn’t know how old you are?” To me, Mitch exemplifies that conundrum…. He’s someone who is wise beyond his years, yet his approach to life really is ageless and timeless.

I would also like to acknowledge that while Joan is my sister-in-law and I have known her for most of my life, I have to say, marrying Mitch all those years ago was one of the best moves she ever made. Our family was pretty great before Mitch… but once he officially joined our clan, **WOW**. It’s been fascinating to see the up close and personal formation of a legend….

I also must say, **BIRTHDAY BOY**… now that you are hitting this incredible milestone, it’s time for us to take a little bit of a closer look at what makes Mitch so special. (**If you want to add a little joke you can say**) Don’t worry Mitch… you’re holding up quite well… a **closer** look won’t hurt… (**and wait for the laugh**). We are all quite aware of Mitch’s amazing accomplishments. For one thing, I feel the urge to state the obvious. All who know and love Mitch know he is cool, calm, and collected in times of crisis or even excitement. With possibly a few other colleagues present, when it all “hits the fan” in a given situation, it is Mitch who truly knows that challenges can be resolved. He deeply, authentically knows the meaning of the phrase, “It isn’t **brain surgery**…” (**Wait for the laugh**). Mitch, you truly speak from experience. We **BELIEVE** you and we thank you for maintaining perspective.

And speaking further about Mitch, some of you may not know a few fascinating inside facts about the birthday boy….

**Fact number 1**

I will never forget the time Nancy and I visited Mitch and Joan here in San Francisco. Mitch had just returned from a run and was completely wrapped in Saran Wrap…. Okay….. I remember he went directly into the kitchen and poured himself a scotch at 9 am….go figure… (**Do you want to add**). All I can say is, as a lay person, I wouldn’t have had access to any kind of article in the Journal of the AMA on “preservation of both internal and external thermodynamic somatics” … but I’m willing to observe and learn (**wait for the laugh**). (**Choice**) Mitch, to paraphrase something Astronaut John Glenn said… “Few women admit their age… even fewer men act theirs…” Thank goodness for your youthful **SPIRIT**… and I mean that in every sense of the word!! (**Wait for the laugh**).

**Fact number 2**

Mitch’s instincts are legendary…

* + Mitch invested in a software company…. Not very good… let’s call this **practice**.
  + Mitch invested in a cherry farm… not very good…. I’ll refrain from saying “It was the pits.” (**Wait for the laugh**)
  + Mitch was invited to invest in a small company by his friend, Meg Whitman… it was called EBay… maybe you’ve heard of it??? It would have been a life changing opportunity… Mitch chose not to invest… go figure… I mean, ultimately, isn’t every action (or non-action) life changing??? Ahhhhh… that’s our Mitch… (**if Mitch is Jewish, do you want to add**) From that moment on, for some reason, in my head, I began thinking of that company name as “**Oy Vey**” instead of EBay (**Wait for the laugh**)

**Fact number 3**

Every time Mitch takes a flight somewhere, or goes to dinner, someone has a medical emergency. We’re starting to think that he’s planting these people and it’s just a set-up so he can come out the hero… go figure…. But just in case, **PLEASE… EVERYONE… CHEW CAREFULLY (Wait for the laugh).**

Mitch, although each one of us has witnessed your evolution from myriad perspectives, it’s clear to all that you’ve truly reached your peak of personal perfection… sure… we’ve had to wait **SEVENTY YEARS**… but it was worth it… you’re an eminent scholar… a respected surgeon…. a devoted husband and an incredible father and grandfather. Your body of work and your personal legacy will shine bright for many years to come. You also set the gold standard for brothers and friends, and for that, we are all grateful.

So Mitch, we may not be wrapped in Saran, but I want to invite everyone to raise a glass…We wish you a **VERY** Happy Birthday…. Here’s to the **NEXT SEVENTY!!!** We love you!! Thank you!!