**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT SPEECH**

**FOR**

**KIMBERLY BOBO**

“Isn’t it a bit unnerving that doctors call what they do,’**PRACTICE**?’” That was said quite a few years ago by the comedian George Carlin. Well, folks, tonight we celebrate a man who showed us how to achieve perfection out of “practice” in so many aspects of his life. Dr. David Zapeda has been our leader, partner, mentor, choreographer, dance coach, compadre, and most importantly, **FRIEND** for at least forty years. No matter when or how you met him, he instantly became a fixture in your life…. At least that has been my experience and that of so many of you that I’ve spoken to. David has been the kind of person that learns as he teaches, teaching as he learns, always exploring new possibilities, reaching for new heights and goals, doing what he can to make this world a better place. The impact he has had on the lives of countless patients and colleagues is immeasurable, and tonight, we are privileged to take his legacy and hold his own mirror up to him, ***whether he likes it or not***…. (**Wait for the laugh**) as aN illustration of what an extraordinary life can yield…

David, I’m gonna say you’ve spent your entire adulthood celebrating **life**… you’ve given life… you honor life… you support life… you heal life… you preserve life…. Welllllll…. Except for maybe that **huge platter of shrimp** that sacrificed themselves for your happiness and gustatorial satisfaction…. I hear the shellfish community might be holding support groups because of this, but they understand your happiness is their privilege… (**Wait for the laugh**).

But David, I have to say, when I think of you, I have always thought that you possess **IT**… **IT** being the “**RHYTHM OF LIFE**.” You’ve always had **IT**. you’ve always been in touch with **IT….** The way you express happiness in being with your family, the way you’ve demonstrated fascination in discovering techniques and methods in robotics and surgery in order to make women’s lives more efficient and functional… the way you surrender to the music… of life… love… and pure joy…. And you know what??? All of us derive even more joy in seeing just how much you appreciate the seemingly small things in life… as well as the big ones. You’ve always had **IT**. You’ve always been in touch with the **rhythm of life**, whether it was growing up amongst all those brothers and sisters or having your children and raising them so lovingly, you just got **IT**. You always got the rhythm. You always got the joke **And my God,** I really hope you get some of mine today… (**wait for the laugh**) … You’ve been in demand as a doctor, a friend, a parent, and of course, all those patients that sat calmly in your waiting room to see you knowing that they’d come to the right place…. For the best care … Of course no one demonstrates more patience than your childhood sweetheart, the love of your life, your wonderful wife Punchy, and I can’t help but wonder… did she get the nickname while waiting for you? (**Wait for the laugh**).

Each of us if we’re smart, if we’re blessed, if we’re lucky, we spend a lifetime looking for **IT** and that **IT** is what one describes as what life is all about. **El Ritmo de la Vida.** I think everybody here would agree with me that you have discovered the **rhythm of life** … that secret … and sacred sauce, and you share it so generously with everyone you meet… in life… in love… in the operating theater…on the dance floor. Your joy and compassion… and of course your rhythm… has inspired everyone to get up on that dance floor of life, and for that, we are all supremely grateful. Dr. David Zapeda, **THANK YOU** for being **YOU**.