**Akinci Speech [EZ Speech No. 16400]**

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Remarks by Dean Fevzi Akinci at the 88th birthday celebration of John C. Rangos, at Duquesne University’s Rangos School of Health Sciences.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN . . . FRIENDS AND COLLEGUES . . . AND RSHS FACULTY AND STAFF . . .

THIS IS A MOST AUSPICIOUS occasion, IN A NUMBER OF WAYS, AND I FEEL BOTH PRIVILEGED AND HONORED TO BE A PART OF IT. I’VE BEEN DEAN OF THE RANGOS SCHOOL OF HEALTH SCIENCES FOR LESS THAN A MONTH NOW, BUT ALREADY I’VE COME TO APPRECIATE DEEPLY THE LEVEL OF COMPETENCE, PRO-FESSIONALISM, AND EXCELLENCE THAT HAVE BECOME NOT JUST THE HALLMARKS, BUT INDEED THE *TRADEMARKS*, OF THIS REMARKABLE INSTITUTION. OUR FACULTY HAVE WON INTERNATIONAL ACCLAIM IN BASIC AND CLINICAL RESEARCH, CLINICAL CARE, AND MEDICAL EDUCATION — AND RIGHTLY SO. FOR Our graduates CONTINUE TO excel in their respective professional licensing exams, and are SUPERBLY well prepared to assume leadership roles IN WHATEVER COMMUNITIES THEY END UP SERVING. SO I INDEED FEEL LIKE A FOOTBALL COACH WHO’S TAKING OVER A CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM!

BUT WHILE THIS OCCASION IS OBVIOUSLY AUSPICIOUS FOR ME, IT’S FAR MORE MOMENTOUS FOR DUQUESNE UNIVERSITY’S RANGOS SCHOOL OF HEALTH SCIENCES. FOR TODAY WE CELEBRATE NOT ONLY THE 88TH BIRTHDAY OF OUR SCHOOL’S INCREDIBLY GENEROUS AND FAR-SIGHTED BENEFACTOR, MR. JOHN G. RANGOS, SENIOR; BUT WE’RE ALSO PRIVILDEGED TO WITNESS TOGETHER THE UNVEILING OF A SPECIALLY COMMIS-SIONED BUST OF MR. RANGOS, WHICH WILL BE ON PERMANENT DISPLAY AT [LOCATION] AS A CONTINUING REMINDER OF THE MAN WHO’S MEANT SO MUCH TO, AND DONE SO MUCH FOR, THE SCHOOL OF HEALTH SCIENCES.

SO WHO IS THIS MAN — THIS JOHN G. RANGOS, SR.? WELL [SLOWLY], HE’S A PHILANTHROPIST . . HE’S A PATRIOT . . . HE’S AN ENTREPRENEUR . . . HE’S THE CEO OF HIS FAMILY’S CHARITABLE FOUNDATION . . . AND HE’S THE FORMER PRESIDENT AND FOUNDER OF THE CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR FOUNDATION IN WASHINGTON[?] — AND THAT’S JUST THE *SHORT* LIST OF HIS HONORS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS! I HADN’T MET MR. RANGOS IN PERSON UNTIL JUST A FEW DAYS AGO, AND I WAS BLOWN AWAY NOT ONLY BY HIS KNOWLEDGE, HIS KINDNESS, AND HIS WORDLINESS, BUT MOST ESPECIALLY BY HIS MANIFEST DEDICATION TO EXCELLENCE IN ALL THINGS. SO YOU CAN IMAGINE WHY — HAVING PRECISELY THIS SAME MIND-SET — I’M SO LOOKING FORWARD TO THE OPPORTUNITY OF WORKING WITH JOHN, PICKING HIS BRAINS, AND BEING INSPIRED BY HIS NEVER-FLAGGING ENTHUSIASM.

NOW, BEFORE I INTRODUCE [NAME], WHO’LL BE HANDLING THE UNVEILING CEREMONY, I DON’T THINK IT WOULD BE AT ALL AMISS, EVEN AT SUCH AN AUGUST INSTITUION AS THE JOHN G. RANGOS, SR. SCHOOL OF HEALTH SCIENCES, TO HONOR JOHN’S BIRTHDAY WITH A HEARTY RENDITION OF “HAPPY BIRTHDAY.” SO HERE’S TO YOU, JOHN:

[LEAD THE AUDIENCE IN SINGING “HAPPY BIRTHDAY;” THEN, AFTER THE APPLAUSE, INTRODUCE THE UNVEILING M.C.] THANK YOU EVERYONE, AND NOW HERE’S [NAME] TO DO THE HONORS.

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