**Krienke Speech [EZ Speech No. 16272]**

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Remarks by Jason Krienke at the retirement ceremony for Joyce [last name].

a couple of weeks ago, i was sitting in my office and i happened to overhear joyce talking to a woman i didn’t recognize. after the woman left, joyce told me that mrs. [last name]’s child, [kid’s name], had been a student at the [name of school] back in [period], and that mrs. [name] had just dropped by to say hello and catch up after . . . what, joyce? . . . [no.] years!

now I ask you, ladies and gentlemen: how many admin-istrative assistants have their own fan clubs?!? Well, joyce [last name] did — and they numbered in the thousands: Parents, faculty, staff, visitors, even the u.p.s. guys! anyone, in fact — and I mean absolutely anyone — who knew her or came into contact with her on the job liked her instantly.

for you see, joyce [last name] ***was*** the special ed department, for more than 30 years. she was its face and its spirit. and after all those years — to quote that farmer’s insurance commercial — “she knew a thing or two ‘cause she’d seen a thing or two.”

in fact, joyce saw *everything*. she knew everything. she understood everything. and she seldom forgot anything *or* anybody. for good reason, she was everybody’s go-to person for virtually any issue, any problem, any request, any question, and any confict involving the department. joyce [last name] was always option one.

now, there are lots of bosses — in fact, i’d say most of ‘em — who serve as “boss” only at the sufferage of their assistants. But at least I admit it. i tell you frankly that I’ve no idea where i’d’ve been when i first took this job if i hadn’t able to tap into joyce’s deep treasure-trove of knowledge and decades of experience — not to mention the tremendous trust and credibility she’d built up over the years within the special needs communities we serve. I was blessed to become her protégé!

and now, after 30 years on the job, joyce [last name] is leaving. we will miss her. ***i*** will miss her. her fan club will miss. we will, of course, soldier on without her, though i must admit that, at the moment, i’m not sure how. she takes with her a wealth of that “secret” knowledge that admin staffers glean over years by just “being there” — knowledge that’s seldom documented and therefore almost never recoverable.

I personally will miss joyce’s wonderful personality, her smile every morning, her competence, and her many kindnesses to me. but perhaps most of all, i will miss her loyalty and devotion — not only to me, but to her job, to the department, to the district, and to the people we serve.

so joyce: we wish you the happiest and most productive of retirements. in terms of doing god’s work here on earth, you’ve done your bit. now go and rest!

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