**Speech Type**: Retirement

**Speaker**: Leona Guest

**Preface to Speech:**

The speech will be taking place in the auditorium, I assume they will be calling you up from somewhere, most likely on stage. When they call you up, wait for the applause and cheering to settle down, smile, let everyone see your passionate, laid back personality and begin the speech when the applause settles.

**Speech**:

Thank you all so, so much for coming here today. It means so much to me that after my 34 years with the Hospital even on my last day I can still count on all of you to come and support me. I know I have worked with some of you for a very long time, and maybe others of your for just a short amount of time, but I hope regardless of how long we have known each other or worked together I have had as big as of impact on your as you all did on me.

Where has the time gone? I’ve spent the last couple of days thinking back on my first weeks here and how different things were, not in a good or bad way, just different. I thinking back to who my mentors were when I was first starting and how everything they did helped me carve a path for myself. I can only hope that in the last 34 years here, working with all of you in the Psychiatric Mental Health division has done the same for all of you. I’ve dedicated the last 34 years to assisting Patients who needed help, not because it was my “job” or “career”, but because it was something I loved doing. As I look out over you all today, it fills my heart to know that you all share the same passion with me. I know some of your disciplines might be different, we have Doctors here, Psychologists, Social Workers and Nurses among us here today and I can't thank you all enough for doing what you do. It is not my goal to stand up here today and be praised for 34 years of work, or to pretend like what I did was better than what others have done, but rather just to thank everyone for standing along side me for the last 34 years, sharing memories with me, and doing their part in helping others.

I literally can't imagine what it’s going to be like after I retire, I mean I have spent the last three decades coming here and spending time with the patients each day and even more with you all working along side of me. You are all like my second family, and now after all this time it is coming to an end. It has been a pretty emotional time for me thinking about all this, I enjoyed spending time with each and everyone of you and I would like to think that I got to know everyone by name while I was here, and remember if you haven't gotten your hug from me this week, time is running out so don't let me leave without getting that hug. On a serious note though, I truly do appreciate everything that you all have done for me, with me and to me. We all had our laughs talking with each other and joking around with each other. I can only hope that after I retire, you all remember how much fun we made this place and you continue that for new doctors who might be coming in here.

Well, I think I have probably taken up my time here on stage and I don't want today to be all about me. In case you didn't get the memo, if you were thinking about buying me flowers or chocolates don’t. Instead I have been asking everyone to donate to a charity. You have all already given me enough these last 34 years. A friendship and a smile is more than enough for me to remember you all by, but if you really want to get me something I suppose you can send me a card every now and again letting me know how everything is going, that or you can put up a giant statue of me. In all seriousness, I know I have said it several times, but I want to say it one more time before I go. Thank you all so much for the last 34 year and please continue being the amazing people you all are. All of you have such huge hearts and are doing exceptional acts everyday that dont go unnoticed by any of us and especially by your patients.

Thank you again!