The following is my rough draft:

Who loves Jim Fagelson?

Jim and I have known each other for about 23 years now.  It started out as a simple business relationship where we bought and sold tons while we both worked for big corporations in the wastepaper industry.  Later on we became colleagues at Linden Trading Company and then a few years later we became partners (business partners...jokingly) and that lasted 20 years until today. Jim, Clark, myself along with all our colleagues have built this company together.  In 2003, under Jim Fagelson’s leadership we were able to secure financing and start Newport CH International.  We started Newport CH International and eventually built it to became a $300 million company and also became one of the largest shippers out of the United States.  Jim Clark and myself aren’t the smartest guys around but when you put the three stooges together then it gets very powerful.  Jim always brought the perfect reputation to our company, when people were susceptible or questioned our company and they found out Jim is with us then it was all good and easy. Jim Fagelson always brought out the nice guy mentality with him,  people always trust Jim Fagelson because he won’t screw you.  We all know that goes a long way in our industry. Our financial  partners invested in us because they trusted Jim Fagelson.  In 2003 we started Newport CH International and through the years we went through plenty of ups and downs.  Thank god we had more ups than downs and that has allowed us to build a successful business.  Its not just the profits and leadership that Jim brought to our company but it is also his personality that brought so much comfort to people and employees when things were tough.  Its important to have a strong mental state when you are building a business and Jim Fagelson has been able to bring the security to our team when we needed it most.  We have been through some serious ups and downs in the past 20 years but overall it’s been a great and fun ride.  I have to say after 20 years of being partners you tend to build a special bond, the experience we went through together just simply can’t be placed in words.  It can mean as much as a childhood friend you grow up with.

Jim has always been a very active person.  Jim and I actually have a lot in common, both of us are active and both of us are always looking forward to our next meal.  I often tell Jim that after he retires we are planning to ride bikes play golf and eat a ton of food.  Jim has the biggest heart in this world because he has given so much of his time in the search and rescue missions.  Jim has been part of the San Bernardino search and rescue team for over 30 years.  I’m sure a lot of you sitting in the audience tonight are part of his team. There were days we wondered where Jim went and later we find out he’s been out rescuing people during the fires,  searching for hikers that get lost or people that get kidnapped  I can go on and on about Jim’s accomplishments and success stories but I think his greatest credentials of all is that he picked the perfect wife to make the perfect family for him.  Jim and Jeannette are like peas in a pod.  They truly complement each other in so many ways and that is why I think Jim will have a great retirement.

Thanks and let me know if you have any questions.

Jim