OLLIE STEWART

(for June L. Harris)

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THIS IS A BIRTHDAY SPEECH FOR A VERY SPECIAL AND UNUSUAL HUMAN BEING. THE SPEECH WILL BE HELD IN ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI.

THE SETTING IS A FORMAL (BLACK-TIE) BIRTHDAY GATHERING.

THE LADY’S NAME IS MRS. OLLIE STEWART AND SHE IS THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF SOUTHSIDE WELLNESS (a senior citizens center located in St. Louis, Missouri)

(MRS. OLLIE STEWART IS A NATURAL BORN “PEOPLE’s PERSON”)

I MET OLLIE STEWART THROUGH CONGRESSMAN WILLIAM L. CLAY, MY EMPLOYER WHEN I WORKED FOR CONGRESS. HE IS ONE OF THE MOST SELFLESS , SUPPORTIVE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT HUMAN BEING THAT I HAVE EVER MET AND THE BEST EMPLOYER THAT I HAVE EVER HAD.

Birthday 2

MERE WORDS ARE INADEQATE FOR ME TO DESCRIBE THIS LADY THAT WE ARE HONORING TONIGHT.

I MET OLLIE DURING THE 1080’S. DURING THAT TIME, SHE HAS BECOME LIKE A SISTER TO ME.

WHENEVER I VISIT ST LOUIS, I DO NOT HAVE TO STAY IN HOTELS. I STAY AT HER LOVELY HOME AND FEEL COMPLETELY COMFORTABLE AS THOUGH I AM AT HOME; I HAVE A LOVELY PLACE TO STAY,

THE REFRIGERATOR IS ALWAYS FULL OF FOOD, HAVE ACCESS TO TRANSPORTATION, RECEIVE THE VERY BEST OF EVERYTHING.

THIS NOT ONLY HAPPENS ONE TIME BUT MANY MANY TIMES.

HER ATTITUDE/MOOD HAS NOT CHANGED FROM DAY ONE. SHE ALWAYS OPENS HER HOME TO ME. (at least (30) times.)

SHE IS AN UNUSUAL HUMAN BEING.

SHE IS ALWAYS PLEASANT, INVITING, APPEARS HAPPY TO SEE ME AND ACCOMMODATING.

Birthday 3

WE HAVE TRAVELED TO MANY PLACES TOGETHER, INCLUDING LAS VEGAS.

WE ALWAYS HAD FUN TOGETHER AT THE CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS IN WASHINGTON, D. C.

WHILE VISITING ST. LOUIS; SHE HAS HELD PARTIES AND GATHERINGS AT HER LOVELY HOME FOR THE SPECIFIC PURPOSE OF GETTING TO SEE MANY PEOPLE FROM ST. LOUIS THAT I KNOW WHILE I AM THERE.

I ALWAYS HAVE AN EXHILARATING TIME IN ST. LOUIS, GOING TO THE BEST RESTAURANTS, SEASONAL EVENTS. ETC.

I DO NOT POSSESS THE WORDS TO DESCRIBE THE TYPE OF HUMAN BEING SHE IS.

EVEN ONE TIME WHEN I WENT TO ST. LOUIS; IT WAS NECESSARY THAT {OLLIE} BE OUT OF TOWN. SHE, NONETHELESS, MADE PROVISIONS FOR ME TO STAY AT HER HOME. THEN SHE DESIGNATED MARY (ONE OF HER DAUGHTERS)TO HOST ME AND TAKE ME TO WHEREVER I HAD TO GO. THEN, MARY WAS STUCK WITH ME.

Birthday 4

SHE KNOWS THAT I LIKE THE NBA. SHE DID NOT HAVE THE SPORTS CHANNEL ON HER TELEVISION. EVEN ONE TIME WHEN I WAS IN ST. LOUIS; IT WAS DURING THE NBA SEASON; AND SHE PLACED THE NBA CHANNEL ON THE TEHOME.LEVISION JUST SO I COULD WATCH THE

GAMES WHILE I WAS THERE. WHAT KIND OF PERSON DOES THAT. ONLY OLLIE STEWART.

ONE TIME WHILE VISITING ST. LOUIS, WE ATTENDED AN EVENT, AND IT WAS NECESSARY THAT OLLIE LEAVE EARLY. INSTEAD OF HER

INDICATING TO ME THAT SHE WAS READY TO GO; SHE INSTEAD LEFT HER CAR KEYS; TOOK A TAXI OR HITCHED A RIDE WITH SOMEONE ELSE AND LEFT THE CAR KEYS SO THAT I MAY BE ABLE TO LEAVE WHENEVER

I DESIRED. WHAT KIND OF PERSON DOES THAT EXCEPT A GENUINE FRIEND.