



美國華聯商會

Peninsula Chinese Business Association

50 Victoria Avenue Suite #208, Millbrae, CA 94030

March 1, 2021

Dear Members and Friends,

When I was in my 30s and 40s, I loved going to people's wedding celebrations. But when I got to my 50s, the number of wedding invitations decreased while the numbers of funeral announcements rose.

The difference between the two events is that the people dress differently. Instead of noise, there is silence. In both circumstances, family and friends deliver speeches of praise. Both addresses have similar messages: Speak from the heart and say how you feel about a person. Describe the person's qualities. Talk about their career, achievements, hobbies, and passions. Praise their relationships with family, friends, and colleagues. Describe how you aspire to be like them. Talk about how they grew up. Say a couple of funny memories. And etc. They're all nice and sweet.

But the real difference between a wedding speech and a loving eulogy is that in one, the addressed person hears it while in the other, they do not. I know that deep and tender feelings flow from genuine affection, and you want to share it at the right time. But I wonder if after a person passes, will they have ever heard the messages before? You may have only shared your heart's feelings with others but never with the person who is supposed to hear it.

Life is so fragile. Seven lives I knew were taken away by COVID-19. They deserved to live longer. If you love a person, love now while he/she is living. If you have thoughts of someone, please tell them now, and give them the chance to treasure your thoughts. If you wait until they rest in peace, your message will never be anyone's treasure. Don't express your sweet words for the first time on a chiseled ice-cold marble-stone.

Best wishes,

Johnny DaRosa

Johnny DaRosa
President



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致：美國華聯商會會員及朋友們，

當我 30、40 歲的時候，很喜歡，也有很多機會參加別人的婚禮。但當我踏入 50 歲，婚禮請柬少收了，接到更多的卻是葬禮通知。

在婚禮、葬禮的兩個場合上，人們都有著不同的衣著，氣氛也是兩極化，一邊熱鬧喜慶，另一邊卻顯黯然沉痛。兩個截然不同的場合，卻有著微妙的相同之處。一些親友們都會對主角發表演說，細訴內心對他的感受，亦會表達對他由衷的讚美。親述他的為人、興趣、職業、成就，還有他所追求的梦想，是何等充滿個人魅力。亦讚揚他與家人、朋友、同事相處非常融洽，實屬難得。大家也談到他的成長背景，憶起與他一起的幾個有趣故事，就仿如昨日.....一切都是美好的回憶。這是愛的賀詞，也可以是一篇愛的悼詞。

婚禮賀詞與葬禮悼詞，最真實的分別是什麼？賀詞，主角可以親身聽到了，也感受到，你可以看到主角欣喜的面容。但悼詞卻不可。大家可能會對某人，有一份深切又真摯的感情，你想在適當的時候與他分享。但何時才是適當？為何要等待？如果當他離開塵世後，才分享你的心底話，極其量這只會淪為一篇感人的悼詞，所有旁人都聽到了，也被你感動，唯獨是那人已失去這機會，這還有意義嗎？

新冠肺炎肆虐，7 位我認識的朋友亦因此離世，我想他們應該活得更長久。正因為生命是如此脆弱，我們更要學會活在當下，愛要及時。如果你愛某人，請你趁他活著時就趕快去愛，讓他感受到你給予的關懷及快樂。如果你對某人有些好建議，或是想表達你對他的認同、欣賞，請馬上告訴他，讓他感受到你的鼓勵，及時獲益。你對某人這份的真心真意，是獨有而珍貴的，不要白白浪費。

請不要等待，不要讓你要訴說的甜言蜜語，最後只變作那人墓碑上的悼文。錯過了，再令人感動的悼文，也都是一種遺憾！

祝福大家

美國華聯商會 會長，

Johnny Darosa

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二零二一年三月一日

中文翻譯 Doris Wong (嘉嘉工作室創辦人)