Hi everybody. For the two people here who don't know me, I'm Ellen, the oldest of Barbara's three.

Mom, sit down. I mean it. It's your birthday and there is nothing in that kitchen that needs you right now.

She's not going to sit down.

I want to tell one story, and it's a small one. When I was seventeen I failed my driving test for the second time. I got in the car crying, fully prepared for a conversation about my feelings, and my mother pulled out of that parking lot and drove straight to the empty lot behind the old grocery store.

And she made me drive. For two hours. Cones, parallel parking, the whole thing, in the dark, while she said almost nothing.

I passed nine days later.

That's my mother. She has never once told me everything was going to be fine. She has just quietly made it fine and let me figure out later that she'd done it.

She taught me to cook the week before I moved out, standing in that kitchen, because she'd decided I wasn't leaving unprepared. We have talked on the phone every Sunday for twenty years. Every Sunday. Through two of my moves, one divorce, and a stretch where I wasn't good company.

And then there was the year after Dad died.

I don't want to spend long on it tonight, because this is a celebration, but I have to say it out loud once. That year, she took care of all three of us. Us. Her kids.

Create your own personalized speech at birthdayspeeches.com

Grown adults with our own houses. She cooked, she called, she showed up, and she did all of it while carrying something heavier than any of us were carrying.

None of us has ever properly thanked her for that, and I'm doing it now, badly, in front of everyone.

Mom, you're seventy. You've got a garden that embarrasses the neighborhood, a choir that would fall apart without you, and six grandchildren who all think they're your favorite.

Here's my wish for this year, and the six grandkids are witnesses. Let us take care of you for once. Let us cook. Let us drive.

Everyone, please stand up.

To Mom. Seventy years. Happy birthday, and we love you.

This speech was created with birthdayspeeches.com.Answer a few questions and generate your own personalised speech now atbirthdayspeeches.com

Create your own personalized speech at birthdayspeeches.com