

Julie Rechel

I am honoured that Julie's parents, Lorraine and Dieter, have asked me to speak here today,

I am pleased to help them celebrate Julie's life.

and to express to them , and to Julie's sister Susan ,

and her extended family,

our condolences for their loss .

We have come together to share with them and her friends and colleagues the heavy burden of grief we are all bearing.

Julie was an exceptional human being, beautiful inside and out, a natural diplomat and an exemplary representative of her country.

Her intelligence and gentleness, her unforced confidence and quiet competence, were readily apparent to all who met her.

As was her humanity.

When my wife Ayse was diagnosed with breast cancer, Julie was among the first to come to provide support and encouragement.

I came to know Julie through my daughters Yasemin and Celine.

Ayse and I always enjoyed seeing Julie and her friends at our house and at our daughters' homes,

and talking with them about life in the Foreign Service.

To some extent, you can measure the character of your own children by the company they keep.

It is gratifying to me as a parent to know that Julie was a great friend to my daughters.

The picture of Julie in the Globe and Mail, in which she toasts us with that extraordinary smile, is testimony to the loss we have suffered.

But that smile is also a reminder of how much Julie has enriched our lives.