BEST MAN SPEECH

FOR

BRIAN BURNS

Good evening everyone. I’d like to say hello to friends, guests, family and our happy couple Jeff and Tiffany. It’s so great that all of you have come to celebrate this wonderful occasion with Jeff and Tiffany and I know they really appreciate and are thankful for everyone taking the time and expenditure to join in the festivities and witness this special celebration.

Knowing that Jeff has so many good friends, it is a real honor to have been chosen as best man and to participate in this celebration. Jeff and I have been friends for about 15 or 16 years, so we know each other fairly well. We’ve been through a lot together and Jeff has been through even more than I can imagine. He’s a brave, courageous soldier who has done his country proud. He and Tiffany went to Hell and back for all of us and as they risked their lives, each found their other half when they met. I have to say that I was quite honored to have been the first friend of Jeff’s that Tiffany got to know well. I don’t know what she thought of me at first, but there’s two things I **DO** know: She must have seen a lot worse due to her experiences and once she met the rest of Jeff’s friends, I think I probably seemed pretty normal moved up pretty quickly to the top of the list!!!

Those of us who know Jeff and Tiffany know they are a great pair and are meant to be together, and I have never met two people more perfectly matched for each other. There’s lots of common threads that weave the two of them together and I’d like to give you some examples:

* As most of you know Tiffany is a skilled helicopter pilot. Frequently these helicopters are used to transport **cargo**. Jeff, as most of us know, has a passion for a certain article of clothing and often transports things in his **cargo** **shorts**. Jeff, speaking of cargo shorts-not that you need any help or hints-did you hear about the guy that was caught smuggling 2 l**ive** lobsters and a couple of pounds of shrimp from a supermarket in Mississippi in **HIS** cargo shorts? **OUCH!!** The good news was that he had plenty of storage space in his shorts-the bad news? Store security smelled something **fishy** and busted him! (**Wait for the laugh**). Tiffany, of course, if you act fast, you can co-opt some of those pockets and make Jeff hold your stuff when you go out…lighten **YOUR** load!
* And speaking of lightening a load, think about the similarities these two share with regards to fitness…let’s see… Tiffany can be found doing all types of athletic activities on the weekend including running, swimming, etc. Jeff is getting his act together little by little-he likes to run… all the way to Matt Dambeck’s house…and then he asks for a ride home!! I once heard a story and it reminded me of Jeff’s commitment to fitness. An army sergeant was out on the field with his squad of about 20. Thinking he would entice them to do something, he said, “I have a nice, easy job for the laziest person here. Show of hands-who believes he or she is the laziest person in this squad? Everyone raised his or her hand except one. The sergeant was curious so he approached the private with no hands raised and asked, “Why didn’t you raise your hand?” To which the private replied, “Too much trouble, sir.” (**Wait for the laugh**) Ah…Jeff….I don’t even think **YOU’RE** that lazy! But we know you’re trying, so keep up the good work!
* And now the most important thing these two have in common is that now they’re both married-to each other, and have the wedding rings to prove it. Some may say that wedding rings seem to be the world’s smallest handcuffs, but fortunately that’s not the case with our happy couple. They’re best friends, partners in life and an inspiration to all of us as they show us the power of love.

I’d like to invite all of you in joining me for a toast to our bride and groom, two people who have done a tremendous amount for their country. We can all debate about the war in Afghanistan, but the best thing to come of it today stands before you today… General Douglas MacArthur once said something that I think applies to both devotion to one’s country and to love and marriage. He said, “It is my earnest hope-indeed the hope of all mankind-that from this occasion shall emerge … a world found upon faith and understanding, a world dedicated to the dignity of man and the fulfillment of his most cherished wish for freedom, tolerance and justice.” Of course “freedom” can be debated in the context of a marriage, and there will be times when you just might do that, but you get the picture. To Jeff and Tiffany, may you only know freedom to love and be happy, tolerance of each other and justice as you respect each other and build your life together. Congratulations!