WEDDING SPEECH

FOR

DAVID DEZELAN

2ND REVISED

Hello everyone and thank you all for being here to take part in this very special day with us. We appreciate the time and energy that you have all invested in sharing this joyous occasion and I can’t think of any place I would rather be than right here, right now, celebrating our beautiful daughter and our wonderful new son-in-law. Isn't this just fabulous weather for the 2nd week of June...and Annette's prayers that began over a year ago for the fair weather gods to prevail were a success. We weren't sure just how successful a June garden ceremony might be but Kaelin insisted that the setting she had envisioned for years would be the perfect venue..... and wouldn't you agree that she and Steve made a stunning couple in the midst of the Lakelandwood garden.

Kaelin and Steve have discovered their combined destinies within each other and Annette and I are so proud to now have a whole new extended family. I would like to welcome Steve’s family to ours and we look forward to sharing the stories from the past and the combined experiences of the future that will tie our families together. We especially want to extend our appreciation to Tom and Karen Teegarden for their friendship and boundless energy in the months and weeks leading up to Kaelin and Steve's day. Our dinner yesterday evening was exquisite and we thank you for hosting such a lovely evening. And to all the Teegarden family and friends..... please accept our heartfelt thanks for being here for Steve and Kaelin today.

To our families, the Gohmans and the Dezelans, the day we all dreamed of has finally arrived! We’re so grateful you’re all here with us, and we know that you’re as thrilled and excited, as we are to witness our family’s joy and expansion. I how much your love and support mean to Kaelin and Steve. To all of the Dezelan family........Thank you guys!

It is always a dream fulfilled when we can see our children blossom and grow into magnificent, strong and loving adults, and Annette and I are so blessed to have a daughter like Kaelin. To Kaelin...your mother and I have had hopes and dreamt of the possibilities for you since that 1st day you got on that Kindergarten Bus here in Lake Bluff. There have been many special days throughout your life where you have made us incredibly proud, but on this special day you are so beautiful as you begin your new life with Steve, and today is probably the most special for us. I know how immersed you and your mother have been for the past several months as you plotted and planned and produced this wonderful wedding ceremony and reception. I once heard the expression, “What I wanted most for my daughter was that she be able to soar confidently in her own sky, whatever that may be.” I have to say that with this entire experience of Kaelin meeting, falling in love, marrying Steve, and building a new life and family, all while doing wonderfully in her career, shows us all that Kaelin really has learned to soar in her own sky, and we are so proud of her.

Steve, to you, I would like to share the words of the British historian, Thomas Fuller, who said, “If you would have a good wife, marry one who has been a good daughter.” I want you to rest assured in knowing that I could not have asked for a better daughter, so congratulations on marrying the best wife you could have ever found! I also want to say that I really appreciate the respect you showed from the beginning and although we all live in a very modern world, I want to acknowledge you for inviting me to lunch on that auspicious day \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ years ago, to ask me that simple question of granting my permission that would seal us together for the rest of our lives. Thank you for loving and caring for my daughter. She is the most precious gift I can imagine. Steve, we welcome you with open arms to our family and we’re very proud indeed to have you as our new son. You know there is an old expression: " A man who can be a hero to his wife's relatives can face the world without fear” Not only are you Kaelin's hero, but you’re ours as well. We’re blessed to have you as part of our family.

To Kaelin and Steve…Annette and I have watched the two of you fall in love, grow together and plan tirelessly side by side for this next phase of your lives. From my viewpoint it has been a beautiful journey and I personally watched in awe, Kaelin, over the past year as you and your mother seemed to pull so many details together effortlessly, communicating constantly and keeping things on the perfect track. And I also have to say to my other amazing daughter, Suzanne, the beautiful Maid of Honor, who worked from afar to make sure her sister had all the help and support a sister can offer for her special day-You’re the best Tookies!

I would like to invite all of you to join me in a toast to our happy couple. To Kaelin and Steve, I want you to know that when I married your mother, it was the luckiest day of my life, and I know you both feel the same thing about each other. Here’s to the both of you, the best of you, and may you have many, many years of dreams fulfilled, happiness, success and mutual admiration! Here’s to a lifetime of health and happiness. Cheers to my daughter and son-in-law. We love you!! Thank you all!