FATHER OF THE BRIDE SPEECH

FOR

DAVID MILLER

Hello everyone! Welcome to the most special day of our (**should this be “our?” If you are not married, change to “my”**) most special daughter’s life!! Today Chelsea and Nathan have tied that unbreakable knot that cements the lifelong bond between our happy couple, our families and many, many years of health, happiness, mutual respect and admiration. It’s really a thrill to be here with all of you, our closest friends and family and the joy is contagious! It’s a privilege to be connected to all of you as well, and today is complete because you are all here to celebrate with us. We appreciate the effort that’s been made to be with us and we know it’s all been worth it! Chelsea, you look absolutely radiant and just in case it isn’t written all over my face-but I don’t think I can smile any bigger! … I couldn’t be happier or more proud to be your father than I am today. Nathan, we welcome you to the family with open arms and we’re proud to have a new son-even a Longhorn’s fan! (**Wait for the laugh**). You know I kid you about this all the time…but really…thank goodness IU doesn’t have a football team…. and I’ll stop right there-until after the honeymoon! Nathan, we are so proud of you and your military service to our country and on behalf of everyone in this room, we salute your commitment, bravery and devotion. To you and your army comrades and to all of the veterans present today, please know that our appreciation goes deeper than words can express. We’d also like to extend a warm welcome and thank you to Nathan’s parents, Brian and Susan Clukey. You’ve raised a wonderful young man and we are thrilled that Chelsea found such a perfect “other half.” I want to say a special hello and happy anniversary to another radiant couple-my sister Barbara and her husband Gerald who are celebrating their 40th anniversary!! Barbara, Gerald, congratulations and you two are a wonderful example of a happy, successful and enduring relationship. May the both of you have many, many more years of happy anniversaries!

Chelsea, earlier I said that you looked radiant today, but as your father, I need to “glow” and acknowledge you a little more. You’ve always been so special to me (us) and today, as you stand before us and become a married woman, I am almost speechless at how beautiful you are…**ALMOST**… speechless. I think of the things you’ve loved throughout your life, from your appreciation for textiles and art and fashion to your love of bedtime stories and all sorts of sweets, and I think of the ways you’ve demonstrated your passion for these things-whether expressing yourself artistically or hiding yourself in a closet or under the covers after Halloween or Easter to devour your “goodies” with your eyes and your other senses, you’ve always demonstrated an enviable enthusiasm for life and your joy for everything-from the simplest to the most sophisticated of life’s treasures, is an inspiration…and I’ll bet there’s someone here who can back me up on that-Betty Beauligman-I bet you’ll agree that Chelsea’s enthusiasm-especially for your cookies, is a delight to observe!! Betty, you’ve been like an adopted grandmother to Chelsea and we’re so happy that you’re here with us today! I’m sure Chelsea will agree that she’s an even “smarter cookie” for having you in her life!

Chelsea and Nathan, it’s time to get back to the festivities, but first, how about a little fatherly advice? Nathan, We know you’re kind, easy going, and respectful, and we know that those fine traits will serve you well in your marriage. Always remember, in the words of, well, many ….”**Happy wife, Happy life**.” Also remember, in the words of David Miller…that would be ME… Three little words are important to use every day… yes, say I LOVE YOU and mean it, and remember it…but 2 words are even more important…. repeat after me…”**YOU’RE RIGHT” (Say this with some mock super-seriousness and wait for the laugh)**. In all seriousness however, you are both each other’s most precious gift. We wish you a happy, healthy and successful life together, and always remember that, no matter what, take time to appreciate each other and the experiences you will have with those who love you. We all treasure beautiful things, but the most beautiful gifts any of us will ever possess are the memories created with those we love. I know that together we’ve all created some beautiful, lifelong memories today, and I know I will cherish them throughout my life. I know you will too.

I invite all of you to raise a glass to Mr. (**military title?)** and Mrs. Nathan Clukey, Here’s to a Happy, Healthy and Delicious life together! We love you!