BEST MAN SPEECH

FOR

BRIAN STAEHELY

Hello everyone!! It’s really great to be here to celebrate the wedding of my brother Evan to his beautiful bride, Erin. This is a very special day for all of us and I am honored to be Evan’s best man. I have to say, everyone in the wedding party (present company included!) looks fantastic and this setting is really beautiful. The care and attention to every detail really reflects the love and respect these two people have for each other and this kind of party is a really wonderful way to begin a happy married life! I also have to mention that the love and excitement that surrounds all of us today is probably almost as palpable as the jubilation the entire Staehely family felt this past January 1st…. and you all know what I mean!!! Go Ducks!! Can you imagine? Two unforgettable events for this family in one year!!!!! The Rose Bowl win and Evan and Erin’s wedding…. yes, in our family they are almost of equal importance….**almost**!!

Although Evan is my younger brother, I want you all to know that I really love and admire him. He has a real zest for life, whether he’s traveling with Erin, enjoying sports…and yes in particular, the U of O **(? -what is the correct nickname?)** Ducks, or giving his dedication, wisdom and perseverance at work, and he shows us all what it means to be a person who really cares about life and the people who mean the most to him. Although Evan was a bit of a “wild child” in his youth and still is always up for a good joke-or two-or three… he has really shown his true colors in his dedication to his career in law enforcement, and I must say, I am really proud of him. Actually, our mother was endlessly fascinated with the fact that her two sons wound up with careers in law enforcement…so…everybody better behave!! Just kidding!!

I also have to admit that as we were growing up and as we started to imagine what our adult lives would be like, I honestly never thought I would utter the phrase, “Yeah, my brother met his wife in prison…” But **there ya have it**!! Talk about a “meet cute” story!!! Of course you all know that Evan is a deputy sheriff at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (name the jail/prison) and his moll-I mean new wife, Erin…just kidding (!) works there as well as a forensic therapist. I remember when they met-it was about three years ago, and from the moment we all met her, we knew she really fit in with the family. Erin is, as you all know, a beautiful, kind person and I can’t imagine anyone being a better mate for Evan than Erin, and that was made glaringly obvious, and really made me see how special she is, when I saw how easily and willingly she was able to join Evan to sit and watch the Oregon Duck’s Rose Bowl football reruns on VHS cassette …over and over and over and over again!! The woman is a saint!! Who says “good things don’t come out of jail??!!??” Here’s living proof!! (**Turn to Erin and say**) Erin, I am so happy for you and Evan and on behalf of the Staehely’s we welcome you to our family. You two really are wonderful together and we all thank you both for sharing your joy with all of us.

I’d like to invite everyone to raise a glass as I propose a toast:

To Evan and Erin, although there are many puns I could make about our “Prisoners of Love,” I’ll try not to. Instead, I’ll wish you a “life sentence” of love, happiness, health, prosperity, humor and joy. Congratulations!! We love you!!