WEDDING SPEECH

FOR

DAVID PIERCE

REVISED

Hello everyone!! (**Name your wife**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and I want to thank all of you for being here today to celebrate this wonderful occasion with us. Well, Ali and David, **THE BIG DAY**, is finally here!!! We’ve all watched the blossoming of this romance for a while and we’re thrilled that the two of you found each other and are so happy together. We want to congratulate Ali’s family and welcome them to ours. Bobbi, Ali is a wonderful young woman and with your permission, we’re proud to share her with you as our “new” daughter as well, and to Sydney and Samuel, we are all looking forward to sharing our lives with our newly extended family, and that, of course, includes the two of you also!! To Ali and David, love is really in the air, thanks to you two!! Your happiness is infectious, and I for one, am delighted to have caught that bug!! Ali, you look absolutely radiant and we want to thank you for being so wonderful to, and for, our son.

There is a Zen proverb that teaches us, “Where there is great doubt, there will be great awakenings….” and in life, we never know what lurks around a corner, what waits for us at the next turn, or what might be within our reach all along without knowing it. Some people trek to Katmandu or climb to a remote mountaintop to find the meaning of life. Some people spend years searching for “**THE ANSWER**.” We knew back in 2005 that David was going through a time in his life where he was searching for something-as many of us do at that age. (**You had said in your notes that there was a small story of how he ended up at IHOP, but didn’t give the details, so I am phrasing it this way-hope it works**) Who would have guessed that our son found it at IHOP!!! The fateful day was December 28, 2005. (**Turn to Ali and say**) Ali, when you went in for your interview that day, did **YOU** **EVER** think you’d find the love of your life??? Talk about benefits!! Some people are content with a stack of blueberry pancakes and maybe a side of bacon, but you, my dear, found your husband!! (**Wait for the laugh**) To me, that’s just a small description of how wonderful you are. You are a strong, beautiful, smart and determined young woman. Your independence inspires us and your caring, loving and compassionate sides are wonderful to observe and be touched by. Your resilience can teach all of us, and your relationship with David and your love for each other really touches all of us. I am proud to welcome you to our family and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and I look forward to many, many years of family adventures. I want you to know that we are here for you. Ali, back in those early IHOP days, you applied and got the hostess job, and not too coincidentally, David was a waiter. And he waited and **waited**. I believe it was a few months before you caved and went out on that first date, wasn’t it? Ahh…that Pierce charm!!! It got you too!! (**Wait for the laugh**).

David, what can I say to you? I can think of the quote by Dick Cavett who said, “If your parents never had children, chances are you won’t either,” but I’m so grateful that wasn’t the case with us!! (**Wait for the laugh**). You’re a wonderful son and we are sure you will be an even better husband. Your mother and I love you and are really so proud of you, your accomplishments, your wonderful qualities and the fine young man you’ve become.

To Ali and David, it’s clear to all of us that the two of you were meant to be together, and although your paths came close to crossing when you were kids, it happened the way destiny determined it to happen. It’s not so much when or how, but THAT the two of you found each other, and we want you to know we are so happy you did. Always remember how much you love and respect each other today, because when **THOSE** times come, and they will, think back on how you two feel right now, right here. Even though the comedian Henny Youngman once said, “The secret of a happy marriage remains a secret,” (**Wait for the laugh**), I can tell you this- Don’t ever lose touch with **LOVE, HONOR**, and **RESPECT** for each other, and those speed bumps in life will become just one of those…”Remember when?” moments from which to learn. We love you both and wish you several lifetimes of love, health, happiness and pancakes!! Congratulations!!!