MAID OF HONOR SPEECH

FOR

ROBYN PAVIA

Hello everyone!!! It’s really wonderful to be here to honor my dear friend, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and her husband, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (**Name the bride**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, you look gorgeous and the happiness you two are sharing with all of us today is intoxicating!! (**If you want to make a joke you can say,)** Well… that and a couple of thirst quenching cocktails certainly help! (**Wait for the laugh**). For all of the years I’ve known you and for all of the “adventures” we’ve shared, I have to say, today will probably be the most memorable. Weddings are such joyous occasions. They bring out the optimist in all of us and add a vibrancy and promise to all who participate. From the wedding party to the guests, these celebrations remind us of the meaning of life and the importance of love and partnership. And the love the two of you found together reminds me of Emily Dickinson’s words when she wrote that touching and famous poem…. “Hope is the thing with **fea**…. uh oh… better find a different quote!!! Unless you want to cover your ears and then I’ll say the whole thing…. (**Emily Dickinson’s poem stated, “Hope is that thing with feathers that perches in the soul and sings the tune without the words and never stops at all.”**) Or maybe I could say… “Hope is the thing with **leather?** That might be what SOME people hope for, but, nah not the same…. so let’s switch inspirations… Someone named Terri Guillemets said, “The bi--- (**birds**) of hope…” Better not go there either!! (**Wait for the laugh**). I think it’s best to go with some words of wisdom by Susan Griffin who said, “The hope you feel when you are in love…. brings something inside you to life. Perhaps it is the full dimensionality of your own capacity to feel that returns. The mood is not unlike the mood of revolutionaries in the first blush of victory, at the dawn of hope. Anything seems possible.” \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, your love is strong and real and has moved mountains.

(**Name the bride**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, the two of us met almost twenty years ago in that “boot camp” known as the University of Florida. Your personality has always been magnetic. You’re fun, outgoing, and yes, some would even call you “spunky!!” The way you care for others is an inspiration, I have always treasured our friendship and special connection, and the way you **LOVE** football almost makes me want to like it too **(If you DO love football, you can say instead … gives us still one more exciting passion we can share from across the miles**). You just might be the proudest citizen of “Gator Nation” that I know, and all I can say is, we all probably dodged a BIG ONE thanks to you **NOT** insisting your wedding gown had to be blue and orange…. and although I KNOW you have something blue on **(It might be funny if you could make her a small** **accessory in blue gator motif to present to her and say… if you have limited time, you can always print out a big logo of a Gators mascot and stick a pin on it and just pin it to her wedding gown-as long as it has blue in it**…. “**You’ll always have THIS as a reminder of this special day!! Wear it proud!!”**-**And wait for the laugh).**

And speaking of hope, and speaking of making lemonade, you **REALLY** are an inspiration when it comes to facing adversity and making it positive. Your spirit saw you through a challenge from which others would have retreated to making incredible life changes and career moves and I’m sure your patients (**and clients? Which is correct?)** who benefit from your innate sense of caring and empathy are so appreciative of your determination, dedication, and skills.

And maybe it was hope, or maybe it was curiosity that led you to let your fingers do the walking and searching back in December of 2011, but whatever it was, it really worked!! Here you are, the new Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and together with (**name the groom**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, Heidi and Bailey, your modern and loving family is complete. To (**Name the groom**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, we are just getting to know each other, and I know that as the months and years are lived, we will get to know each other better and better, but I do know some things about you, one of them being your dedication to your Tai Chi practice. In honor of that, I would like to share some words of wisdom with you. As Buddha taught us, “When the student is ready, the Master appears.” I think it’s safe to say that already happened-as I said, back in December of 2011!! (**Wait for the laugh**). I’m not sure if it was Buddha or Lao Tsu who also said, “Happy wife, Happy life!!” … But that’s true too!! (**Wait for the laugh**)

(**Since the best man isn’t speaking, if you want to propose a toast you can say**) I’d like to take this opportunity to propose a toast to our bride and groom. Ladies and gentlemen, I would like to invite you to raise a glass.

“To \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, here’s to a lifetime of love, health, happiness and success…. in Gator Nation and beyond!!! Congratulations!! We love you!!