WEDDING SPEECH

FOR

JERRY LEBOWITZ

Hello everyone!! (**I am not sure if you are married, but I will use “we.”)** We are so thrilled to celebrate the marriage of our daughter Shealy to this wonderful young man. Love has a way of uniting people and spreading joy and we are so thrilled that all of you are here tonight to share this very special moment with us and Shealy and Sky. This setting is beautiful-right here in the middle of all of the intoxicating scenery that has played host to many fabulous occasions, but in my mind and heart, the most wonderful and gorgeous event ever held in this ballroom is **THIS** one!! Some may think I might be a little prejudiced, but I’m fairly sure that everyone in this room would agree, this is one beautiful bridal party and if I must say so myself, Shealy, you make one spectacular bride!! And now that we’ve all gotten through the tough part-namely the ceremony and all of those photos, as the new Mrs. Mulleneaux, what I **could** say now is, “The **SKY’s** the limit!!” (**Wait for the laugh**) … but actually I have a feeling you two know how to find joy and happiness together, as a team-one that works together beautifully and knows no limitations when it comes to finding health, happiness, mutual respect and success. Sky, we want to welcome you to the family and we look forward to many occasions for the Lebowitz’s and Mulleneaux’s to bond and share only good times together.

Shealy, you have always been a great daughter and an inspiration to us all. Your smile is infectious and your passion for life is beyond refreshing. I remember when you were little how (**name one or two examples of her great personality or how she charmed people**) you used to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and people would just be absolutely charmed. And what about how you would just\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and people would melt? There is an adage that goes, “Give me the child when she is seven years old and I will show you the woman.” Yes, you’ve always been the apple of my eye, (**If you want to make a joke, you can say, “yes, we promote healthy snacking in this family”**) but you’ve proven time and time again how caring, smart and fun you are, and I’m pretty sure everyone in this room knows that!

Shealy and Sky, you are now about to embark on the most exciting adventure of your lives. As I was thinking of what I wanted to say today, and thinking of adventures, I was reminded of some wisdom from a few of the world’s great explorers. These people dared to chart a new course and lived to discover never before known territory. Marriage and partnership are a lot like that. One piece of advice that I can think of is from the Scottish explorer David Livingstone, which was, “I’ll go anywhere as long as it’s **forward**.” Think about that as you two navigate life together. Do your best to be conscious of each other’s feelings and considerations. Try not to stagnate. Some more wise words come from Sir Edmund Hillary who said, “It’s not the mountain we conquer but **ourselves**.” That’s a big one to consider. Remember there are two of you now and no matter what “mountains” or obstacles you might face, try to keep in mind that the solution lies within your willingness to face them as **a team**. Remember to take a look inward and see what is needed of you to honor the other. He also said, “Life is like mountaineering-never look down.” As long as you have each other for mutual **support**, I know you will have a brilliant and happy future together.

Before I invite you all to raise a glass as I propose a taste to our bride and groom, I would like to share yet even more wisdom inspired by Shealy’s Master’s degree in Nutrition. Did you know that Benjamin Franklin said, “In wine there is wisdom, in beer there is freedom, in water there is bacteria…” (**Wait for the laugh**). Maybe that’s why we’re not supposed to toast with water!! Anyway… thanks to scientists and engineers… shout out to Sky and his distantly related colleagues, I can assure you that post revolutionary water, especially in Beverly Hills, is safe to use for toasting, should you so choose!! Oy… after these jokes, it looks like all of you are going to **NEED** a drink… It’s okay… take a sip… I’ll sound funnier (**Wait for the laugh**)

Ladies and Gentlemen, I’d like to invite you to raise a glass as I propose a toast to the new Mr. and Mrs. Mulleneaux: May your marriage be like an exquisitely engineered meal-beautiful and delicious, exciting and nutritious; a little spicy and sweet and may it always leave you wanting more!! Mazel tov!! We love you!!