FATHER OF THE BRIDE SPEECH

FOR

THOMAS CARGILL

Hello everyone and thank you all for joining us on this very, **VERY** happy occasion. Today we witnessed my oldest daughter Morgan marry a great young man, and I can’t imagine a more perfect day or setting (**If you want to make a** **joke you can say**) Of course if there **IS** a more perfect setting or day, that’s fine…. we’ll check it out for the next one-as you all probably know, there are two more waiting in the wings-that would be my daughters Savannah and Ruby… and by the time we have to plan for Ruby’s wedding, which mercifully wont be for several more years, (**as an aside you can say**) stop rolling your eyeballs Ruby, we know you’re **only 9**… we’ll be real pros!! (**Wait for the laugh**). All jokes aside, Morgan… you’re my first born, this is the first time I will have been the “father of the bride,” and although as with everything else about being a father…. there’s no manual, we have to figure out how to do this the best we can, and all things being equal, when I look at you and I see your beauty and poise and love for life, I know everything turned out really good. I’ve never been prouder than I am today, to be your dad.

For those of you who may not know, I had an early introduction to fatherhood, but as we both “grew up,” I realized that I had the **best. Kid. Ever**. Morgan is like a ray of light. She doesn’t know the meaning of the word “stranger;” everyone she meets becomes a friend, and that is a genuine gift. Her ability to adapt to situations and charm everyone in her path has been an inspiration to me and I’m sure to many of you as well. I’ll never forget when my grandmother, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ passed away, Morgan was only four years old. My grandfather, may he rest in peace, moved to an assisted living center in Amarillo and Morgan would go and visit him there. Morgan showed her spirit, even at that young age, and would talk to everyone. What a breath of fresh air she was then… and now…. There was one woman named Dorothy who was a retired kindergarten teacher. Morgan and Dorothy became fast friends… and then Morgan worked her magic… have you ever seen a four year old matchmaker? Is it even legal? (**Wait for the laugh**). If you want to know the FULL power of the Morgan experience, consider this… Dorothy married my grandfather and she and Morgan are still close to this day!!! (**If Dorothy is able to be there you can say**) Dorothy, I’m sure you’d agree that Morgan’s personality is magical-and you were there to see it blossom!

Growing up, Morgan had her interests like sports and in particular volleyball and basketball and even a little soccer. In high school, she was great as a student trainer in several other sports. She was voted class clown in her senior year, (**Turn to** **Morgan and say**), but Morgan honey, I’m afraid to say, there wasn’t too much that was so legendary or hilarious about your driving!! … OH. Except that we’re still alive!! Thanks for that!! A few brushes with death keep a father on his toes!! (**Wait for the laugh**)

And of course in high school, a girl like Morgan would have her head turned by boys, and one in particular stood out from the crowd. Morgan and Tyler met in high school and I’m very happy that Morgan has married such a fine young man (**if you want to make a joke you can say**)… oh by the way, I just want to mention that the fact that Tyler is a sniper in the US Marines and that had **absolutely nothing** to do with wholeheartedly giving my blessing for your hand in marriage (**and wait for the laugh**). (**Turn to Tyler and** **say**) Tyler, welcome to the family. Your parents did a wonderful job raising you and I am proud to call you my son.

Morgan, throughout your life, you’ve had several men who have loved and cared for you…. don’t get excited-I’m referring to your great-grandfather William Cargill, and your grandfather Bennie Flewelling who helped to raise you. You also had (**do you want to say “my wife” or just her name?**) Monica in your life who accepted you as her own and with every unique adult influence, you learned and grew. By having such diverse and special people so close to you, I think it really brought out your spirit of acceptance and openness and that is such a gift. And now that you’re married to Tyler, a new and probably the best chapter of your life begins. I eagerly await the “evolution of Morgan.”

As you’ve been going through the wedding planning and process, I’ve gotten to thinking: I have three daughters… wouldn’t it be great to have a grandson? No pressure!! (**Wait for the laugh**) I think I would really love that for you… and us… when the time is right, but what I want you to know is this. It’s a simple formula for a happy marriage-Love and respect each other… and always be each other’s best friend… We love you!! Congratulations!