WEDDING SPEECH

FOR

HAROLD KRUEGER

Hello everyone! It’s so great to see all of you here in this beautiful setting as we spend a little time in this Paradise celebrating this momentous event. All weddings are occasions for celebration while recalling memories and creating visions of the future. This is a very special moment for our family on so many levels. It is my privilege and pleasure to acknowledge all of you for being here today and it has been made that much sweeter knowing all of you share the history we’re making together. I you all to know that every day Fong and I count our blessings…we have so much for which to be grateful … for our health and our family; our friends and our faith, and to have this opportunity to be a part of this very special wedding, to welcome our new family and to have the chance to express our love for our son…. well… it just practically leaves me speechless!! (**Wait for the laugh**). But if you allow me a few minutes, I will do my best to express just how filled with joy I am.

I am sure everyone here will agree that children are God’s very special gift. To have a child grow strong and magnificent, even though his very existence was in question is truly a miracle. A little over thirty years ago, as we were expecting Daniel’s imminent arrival, Fong had a life threatening disease for which she needed serious and complicated surgery. The doctors gave us no hope for the baby’s survival. We were told there was no chance for a viable birth, but we had faith and we kept it. Through fasting and prayers, our Daniel was born, and through the entire ordeal the doctors documented what happened and called his birth a miracle. Can you imagine? That miracle baby has grown into this six-foot tall, vital, athletic, smart and handsome young man!!!! And today the next chapter of his life begins as a husband, and the future is golden for both Daniel and Teresa!

Family is everything to me and every day I think of Daniel and his sister Trisha and I count our blessings. Every day when I think of them I try to conjure up the memories of what it was like when they were young. I think every parent wishes they could slow down time and hold on to their babies just a little longer, and occasions like weddings tend to intensify those nostalgic feelings. It seems like just yesterday that Daniel and Trisha were taking piano lessons… and karate lessons (**If they ever got into brother/sister fights you can** **say**) and it **ALSO** seems like just yesterday when we had to stop them from using some karate moves on each other when they fought over that piano!! **(-or mention some other reason they fought and wait for the laugh**). But now both of you, Trisha and Daniel, have grown into fine young people-Trisha, you have a beautiful family with your husband Brian and our wonderful grandchildren, Shaeleigh, James and Joshua, and Daniel; you have a **black belt** in Karate!!! (**Wait for the laugh)** (**You can add if you want…)** Kids, all I can say is, don’t mess with Uncle Daniel!

Trisha, Daniel, I look at both of you today and the memories rush back. I remember all of the times and all of the hours we spent together studying math and history and science, and I remember those karate lessons, and the practice and the tournaments so clearly. I remember… like it was yesterday, how your mother took such good care of both of you, and clearly, it has paid off!! I remember your piano lessons and recitals, the awards you won in public school and the great reports we used to hear from your teachers. Daniel, I also remember way back, to when you were about eight years old and you asked for a guitar. I thought to myself, “Wow!! So young!! So determined!! So musically inclined and dedicated to learning an instrument…”…. or so I thought… Do you remember what you did when you got that guitar? You took it out to the yard and proceeded to **smash** it against a tree. Was I surprised? **YES INDEED!!** I asked you what you were doing and you revealed your **TRUE** ambition… you said you wanted to be like that wrestler, “Honkey Tonk Man!!!” (**Wait for the laugh**) ,,, Ah yes, out of the mouths… and straight from the dreams… of kids!!! You always demonstrated a very special viewpoint, drive, and desire to please. And speaking of drive…. how about the time you washed my car? What a considerate gesture… Until we saw that you were using steel wool **SOS** pads!! Boy, you **REALLY** cleaned that car… right down to the **METAL**!! (**Wait for the laugh**) … And I would be remiss if I neglected to mention that throughout childhood, there were friends… those with whom you collaborated, coerced, coaxed, and cavorted… and they have proven their loyalty and the power of friendship over and over again. I can’t imagine what Daniel’s boyhood would have been like without them, and I can’t imagine an occasion this special without them either. It is wonderful to see Daniel’s great friends, Jeff, Danny, and Rob here today with their wives. Just **LOOKING** at the three of you brings even **MORE** stories to mind, but I’ll leave those memories for the next time we’re all together!! I just want to say that through it all… from that flawless performance for your black belt test, to the messes, through the doubts and challenges, and through the miracles and celebrations, you’ve always proved the same consistency to your mother and me- you are a miracle and every day we get to see you grow and fulfill your potential just adds to life’s true blessings. I don’t think we could have ever dreamt of having a better son that you have been. We love you. You make us very, very proud.

Daniel, today signifies that your goodness and spirit have found its mate. Today we expand our family and we welcome Teresa with open arms. Teresa, you are a beautiful bride and Daniel is a lucky man. To Cathy and Bob, thank you for raising a wonderful daughter who is intelligent, kind and loving. We appreciate her for all of her compassion and dedication to her family, her causes, her career and most of all to our son. We are so happy to have our families joined with the union of these two special young people and we know that our newly extended family, which includes Teresa’s brother Phil and his wife, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, Teresa’s grandparents, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and of course Aunt \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, inspires all of us and shows us the true meaning of **family** and **connection**. And Cathy and Bob, I want you to know that we consider Teresa to be our daughter as well, and we would hope that you consider Daniel as your son. You know his good points… (**If you want to** **make a joke you can** **say**) but may I suggest that you keep just one thing in mind… please don’t let him wash your car!!! (**Wait for the laugh**)… and for the **BEST** and most ironic punch line…. isn’t it great that he works for Toyota?!?! I hope he’s not washing any cars there either!!! (**Wait for the laugh**). Just kidding, Daniel, just kidding!!

To Teresa and Daniel, it’s been said that when children find true love, parents find true joy. I know as I say that I speak for Fong and Cathy and Bob. As individuals you have both proven to be wonderful children and have always given us joy. As husband and wife, may you both find strength and inspiration in what it means to have your true love by your side. Today really does signify the beginning of the next chapters of your life together. Look around at all of us who are here to celebrate this special union. May the two of you live together in health and happiness, peace and prosperity, humor and understanding, for eternity. We love you! Congratulations!