**14585, Tom Molway**

Good Evening Ladies and Gentlemen,

I want to welcome everyone here tonight to join with me and my family in celebrating the wedding of my daughter Kerry to the love of her life, Eric. Your presence here means very much to us. A few months ago we lost my wife and Kerry’s mother, Jane, to cancer. Kerry getting married without her mother present was never something any of us considered. Like all young brides Kerry wanted her mother to join her in the planning and share in the excitement. Doing all these things without her have brought us all even closer together. We have always been a very close family so we know that my Jane is here with us in heart.

In contrast, when Kerry was three years old she got very mad at me and I found myself having to punish her for misbehaving. My beautiful daughter used the only weapon she had and stomped up to me and said, “Just for this, Daddy, I’m not going to invite you to my wedding.” All I could do was stand there and stare for a moment before I reminded her that I had to be at her wedding. “It’s against the rules for the bride to not let her daddy walk her down the aisle.”

Although it was considered to be unconventional at the time, I was a stay at home dad and I loved every minute of it. My three children, Kerry, Brigid, and Michael and I are all very close to one another. I wouldn’t have lived it any other way. We shared many hopes and dreams as well as many times of fun and games. My daughter Kerry is a very warm and loving girl. She has such a giving personality. She is also a kindergarten teacher who loves children. She is very good with children and her students love having her as their teacher.

I want to take a moment to welcome Eric into the family. He is a wonderful young man and we are glad he is now officially part of the family. He’s really been a part of our family for quite some time. As we got to know him while he and Kerry were dating he just seemed to fit in with us naturally. I have to honestly say that he and Kerry are blessed to have one another. They are a good fit in every way. They share the same sense of humor and most of the same activities. My heart’s desire is for them to have a life-long marriage just as Jane and I shared.

Would you all please join me in a toast to the bride and groom?

May you love each other more tomorrow than you do today

May you always remember why you fell in love

May your love grow through the trials of life

May the trials of life only make your love stronger

And may you always remember to stay focused on the joys of life rather than the trials of life