WELCOME/REHEARSAL SPEECH

FOR

BILL TAYLOR

Hello everyone and **welcome** to this **Welcome**/Rehearsal party! (**If you want to make a little joke you can say**) You might think that sounds a little repetitive but you may as well be reminded now, we believe in legacies, repeated traditions and reinforcement of positive concepts!! Just listen closely and you’ll see what I mean…. It’s great to be here at the historic Waterlot Inn in beautiful “BARmuda!” We’ve all traveled from far and wide to honor Billy and Katherine and to witness their marriage. We have great representation from several “exotic” ports of call along the eastern seaboard of the US… let’s face it, how can there be a party without New York, New Jersey, Virginia and Florida I the house?!?! And what’s better than having distinguished visitors from the west coast?? (**If you want you can fake a little Beach Boys and sort of sing, “I wish they all could be California GUESTS!!” and wait for the laugh**). This place really is something, and as I said earlier, legacy and revisiting play a recurring role in this weekend’s festivities. Some of you may not know it, but this is almost the very spot… actually it was right there on the dock (**point to the spot**) in front of a crowded restaurant where, fourteen months ago Billy got down on bended knee and proposed to Katherine…. awwwwwww…. she said yes, of course, and we all got a trip to Bermuda!! **YAY!** (**Wait for the laugh**). Our family… and by that I mean the Taylors, the Lubarsky’s, and of course Billy and Katherine all appreciate that you’ve taken the time to be here and share our collective joy as we all celebrate the beginning of their new life together.

I think I’ve had the pleasure to met everyone but just in case we haven’t been formally introduced, I’m Bill Taylor, the father of the groom, and this is my wife Cathy…. (**Cathy wave**) … sound familiar? Yes indeed, our son took a page out of the family “If it ain’t broke don’t fix it” manual… he is a Bill who found his Kathy… the spelling might be slightly different but the love is there… and **THAT’s** what counts! I suppose in this tech obsessed world we live in our bride and groom should be known from now on as William and Katherine 2.0!! (**You can add**) Bigger!! Better!!! And they’ve worked out the bug fixes!! (**Wait for the laugh**).

Before I get to rambling on a little **TOO** much, I would like to take a moment to acknowledge some really wonderful people, each one of whom has a story and a strong connection to our bride and groom. Of course I am referring to our gorgeous wedding party. At first I thought that maybe someone else might introduce them but quite frankly, I would like the honor. Friends and family mean so much to us especially at times like this so it’s important to recognize such love and support.

It was Alfred Lord Tennyson who said, “I am part of all that I have met.” I think both Katherine and Billy are more than proud to know these fine young people.

(**Name the bridal party- maybe you can go by seating starting from furthest away and to the left and then furthest away and to the right or whichever order makes the most sense to you**)

To my extreme left is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ who has been a close friend of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ since \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (**and so on**)

As a proud father watching Billy grow up, Cathy and I dreamt of this day. Of course while we were dreaming of that future, he was dreaming of being in New York and being a “Ghostbuster.” You may think you remember the movie…. let me tell you **BILLY REMEMBERS THE MOVIE**!! Billy and his Ghostbusters uniform were inseparable when he was a child…. and then as a young adult… his dream of Gotham came true…. albeit in a slightly different vocation… “**Who YOU gonna call?!?!” (Wait for the laugh**).

We’re so proud of Billy… and we’re so happy he and Katherine found each other. I will never forget the first time we met her. It’s so true that first impressions are the ones that last. Four years ago Billy brought Katherine to Virginia to “attend a spring wedding.” It was easy to read between the lines and I knew it was more of a “meet the parents” weekend because I knew Billy was “smitten.” What Billy and Katherine perhaps didn’t realize was that I in turn, wanted to leave Katherine with a good impression. If she only KNEW how hard I worked on cleaning up that yard… WAY earlier than usual. Yes, Cathy thought I was nuts, but I just kind of knew…. Thank goodness our first meeting was blissfully uneventful and MUCH less complicated than the “Meet the Parents” movie, but there was one small moment I remember as clear as a bell. As they were getting ready to leave, Katherine said, “It was really nice to meet you Mr. Taylor and I hope I get to see you again.” Katherine, not only have we been glad to “see **YOU** again,” we are thrilled to welcome you to our family. We could not be happier or more proud to call you our “Favorite Daughter-in-Law!” And let’s not forget how thrilled Ashley is to finally have a sister so both of you can gang up on Billy… as needed!!

Billy and Katherine, your parents… all four of us… present you with the best legacy we can think of. You come from a heritage of lasting marriages, thank goodness, and now you two have cemented the future for the Lubarsky’s and Taylors. As you know Billy, when you and your sister were growing up and asked, “What should I be?” I did my best to give you **NO** direction. My only advice was to be happy with what you do and you will have a good life. Nothing fills a parent with more joy than to see his kids happy, successful, and content. Billy, your character, accomplishments, and choices in life have exceeded all of our greatest expectations. Katherine is a gem and now that we have her in our family, conflicts and personality clash resolution … if **ANY**, can be taken to new heights!! **WOW** !! Boy am I glad I cleaned that yard four years ago!! (**Wait for the laugh**).

I would like to invite all of you to raise a glass as I propose a toast:

To Billy and Katherine, Here’s to a long, happy, healthy future and remember that marriage is not only with someone with whom you can live, but it is also with someone with whom you **cannot** live without. Congratulations! We love you!