FATHER OF THE BRIDE SPEECH

FOR

BRETT CREESER

Hello everyone and welcome to this beautiful, exciting, love filled wedding weekend!! (**You can make this sentence more specific once you know if you will speak at the rehearsal dinner- you can keep as is, or at the wedding… you can say, “this wonderful wedding at our beautiful ranch**). This is a very special time for the Creeser family and although we know we’re not losing a daughter and we’re gaining a terrific son-in-law, Drew, if you’re not already aware of this…. and I think you **MIGHT** be, YOU’RE gaining **TWO** Jillian’s…. well… ALMOST…. you see many refer to your new wife as “Her father’s daughter,” so I thought who better than me to give you some fresh insight into the mind and heart of your new bride. (**If you want to make a joke you can also say**) …And don’t worry…. I am sure you can see that although we’re cut from the same cloth, Jillian has far exceeded me in the looks department… she is a beautiful young woman inside and out, and clearly she is also an exquisite bride.

Whoever it was that coined the expression “Like father like daughter” knew what he was talking about!! Jillian is methodical, organized, completely comfortable around a spreadsheet or detailed schedule and has a fearless side that is to be reckoned with. Her mother \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and I are so proud that she has inherited so many of my admirable traits…. I mean, she’s gotten some great characteristics from her mom too, but let’s be honest… It’s probably better that she takes after me… after all, the family legend says that my wife will probably be late for her own…. well, you know what I’m saying here… (**Wait for the laugh**) … so make sure to set some alerts for family gatherings, Drew!!

Drew, if you don’t already know this… and I suspect you might, get ready because Jillian is going to keep you on your toes!! Literally!! I remember that as a young girl growing up, she knew **NO FEAR**. One summer when she was about seven years old, she made the announcement…. she was going to learn to water ski. Okay…I will never forget how we put on our life vests, she wrapped herself around my waist, and the boat pulled us both …. thankfully together... right up and out of the water. We then we worked on our classic maneuver… you know… the one in which I had her turn around and stand in front of my skis. … it must have been some spectacle… at least **WE** thought so… because we got to perform this move AGAIN in the middle of Africa at a family ranch! That glimpse kind of sums up Jillian… loving life and the adventures she dreams up, sharing her joy with those she loves…with her head and her heart facing forward… embracing the present and looking towards the future.

There is another incident that comes to mind when I think of unforgettable Jillian moves and moments. Jillian and her grandmother \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (**Do you want to say “May she rest in peace?”)** took the trip of a lifetime to visit family in South Africa. The trip itself is a demonstration of how much Jillian and her grandmother loved each other… and how much fun they would have together…One night as they returned to their accommodations from their evening “festivities,” somehow they both fell into a fish pond…. Can you **IMAGINE?**?? Can you imagine the laughs they had? All I can say is… what happens in South Africa **STAYS** in South Africa!! (**Wait for the laugh**).

This weekend will see a new and exciting side of our daughter. As a bride and a new wife there’s a whole new world to discover and maneuver, but thankfully she has a wonderful partner. (**Turn to Jillian and say)** Jillian, your mother and I have always been inspired by your enthusiasm, poise, and dedication to your goals and to the people that mean the most to you (**or mention 3 other traits that exemplify your daughter**). We’re so proud that you honored our legacy by attending our college, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and we both respect you tremendously for not necessarily taking the easy road when it came to job choices. It shows you are a young woman of character and substance.

Within the next few hours (**or if you speak after the ceremony you can say “It’s only been a few short hours**”) you’ll be married/have been married, but your mother and I know that the next chapters of your life will contain the most interesting and fulfilling moments anyone could every wish for. (**Does Jillian have any siblings? Mention them**) Your mother, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and I would like to welcome Drew to our family and we look forward to sharing new and exciting adventures with the both of you and (**Do you want to mention Drew’s parents and family?)** Drew’s parents \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and his (**mention siblings**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ . Here’s to many more years of precious moments, family memories, and lots of love, good health, happiness, and all that you wish for!! We love you! Congratulations!