WEDDING SPEECH

FOR

MIKE NEKAHI

Hi everyone!!! It’s so great to be here to celebrate the marriage of David and Lilly and even though there is no formal “wedding party,” I am honored to have a few moments to speak about my cousin and great friend David. I’m sure I don’t have to describe to anyone in this room how important family is to us, so to have the chance to dance at this wedding is really a privilege on so many levels. A long, **LONG** time ago, the poet Hafiz wrote,

“Ever since Happiness heard your name

It has been running through the streets

Trying to find you.”

And even though this is an ancient sentiment, apparently Happiness gets around, did a thorough search, and squeezed in a couple of Seahawks games, because it clearly did its job and found David!! (**Wait for the laugh**). Actually, happiness does exist everywhere… including a franchise in San Diego…. We just have to be lucky enough and aware enough to know when it’s standing in front of us. Fortunately Lilly and David found this in each other and here we are. I would like to welcome Lilly and her family (**You can name her parents and any siblings**) to ours. Congratulations to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (**If you want to acknowledge your aunt and uncle and any of David’s siblings, do that here**) I would also like to wish my Aunt \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and Uncle \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ my love and congratulations. We look forward to the new memories that will be made as our families grow together.

(**If you want to make a joke you can say**) I have to say that I was aware very early on that as far as family goes, I definitely hit the “Lucky Gene Pool.” I love my immediate family, but growing up, I also had my cousin Dave by my side. As the first generation in our family to settle here, we got to experience so much together. We were only three and five years old when we arrived and our shared experience and DNA brought us close together at an early age. I really feel we’re more like brothers than cousins and for that I am really thankful. We have so much more in common in addition to knowing each other for almost our of lives. We’re both (**If you want to make a joke you can say**) **incredibly smart and witty** Geminis… if I **DO** say so myself. In fact our birthdays are a week apart… we grew up in the same town, went to the same junior high and high school **AND** we even went to the same college… The University of Washington in Seattle. I have so many memories of our great times together… from family get togethers (**You can add an instance that stands out**) … Dave… remember that time when \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?? … To playing sports, going to high school football games, going on vacations together, getting our first jobs in retail together…. **THAT** was an experience!!!... Chasing girls… (**You can add)** Don’t worry, my lips are **SEALED**…and what’s even **MORE** incredible is… **WE’RE** still speaking!!! (**Wait for the laugh**). Obviously I’m just kidding… I don’t think I know of a finer, smarter, more generous, compassionate, modest or caring person than my cousin David, and I certainly **CANNOT** imagine what life would be like without him… (**If you have gone or still go on his boat with him you can add**)…or his boat!!! (**And wait for the laugh**).

David is…. well…. I won’t say **picky**…. in public…. let’s say he’s a **connoisseur**. Let’s say he has a **vision** to which he remains faithful…. Let’s also say he has high standards and is not completely willing to compromise…. and then let’s say that he met his match when he met Lilly!! Dave, you may occasionally…. nahhhhh… **FREQUENTLY**… weigh, double check, assess and ponder your options… once again, today is your wedding day so I won’t say you might be a little indecisive… (**Wait for the laugh**) but when you met Lilly it was clear how much the two of you make each other so happy. Dave…. you met your match!! Lilly, your beauty is equaled by your intelligence, your generosity, and your **realness**. It’s so refreshing to see the two of you together. Like Hafiz said, happiness searched and called your name too, and here we are.

(**If you want to propose a toast you can say [this]-otherwise just say the sentence**)

[**Ladies and gentlemen, I’d like to invite you all to raise a glass as I propose a toast to our bride and groom**]

To Lilly and David… It’s been said that it’s not so much the ship but the skill at sailing that provides success. May the two of you work together in love, health, happiness and respect to chart your course towards all of your goals and destinations in life. Congratulations!! We love you!