WEDDING SPEECH

FOR

JEAN-CLAUDE HYPPOLITE

Hello everyone. I would like to welcome all of you here tonight but that is not possible right now. In order for me to stand before you as a **completely** happy man and a proud father, I would like to call my beautiful wife Lucy to join me as I speak to you. It has been said that a good husband makes a good wife. Frankly I believe it’s the other way around. Lucy, please stand by me as we greet our guests.

It is such a privilege to be here to celebrate the marriage of our wonderful daughter Regine, to Chris. To have the honor of your presence brings such joy. As I look around at all of you I see how this room is filled with love as the bride and groom’s happiness is reflected in the warm smiles on each of your faces. Today we honor the bonds of marriage, the strength of family, the support of friends, and the meaning of life and love. The French writer, Andre Maurois said, “A happy marriage is a long conversation which always seems too short.” Today signifies the official beginning of that long, fascinating, colorful, and lifelong conversation between Regine and Chris. Lucy and I are so proud to have a newly extended family. I would like to acknowledge and congratulate Regine’s godmother, Yolette B. Pierre and godfather, Octave Dorcient. The love and kind wisdom shared at her baptism has guided Regine throughout life and has contributed greatly to the strong bonds of family and tradition that mean so much to all of us. Knowing that Regine has had both of you to watch over her and inspire her has been so meaningful. (**If you want to welcome Chris’ family, you can do that here**). I would also like to wish happy and heartfelt congratulations to Chris’ parents, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. We want to acknowledge you both for the strong foundation Chris has inherited from the both of you. Lucy and I look forward to a bright future shared with our families.

Ever since she was born, Regine has been an **exceptional** child and an extraordinary young woman. Maybe I have a narrow point of view, but I don’t think so. For as long as I can remember, Regine has always wished for a beautiful, meticulous life, wanting everything to be nice and perfect, and she has been more than devoted to working for what she wants. Regine, your wishes have been our command and this ceremony and dinner are the realization of your dreams in so many ways. We are humbled and proud to be able to share this with you.

Regine’s elegance and clarity are boundless. When we knew she was seeing someone that seemed “special,” I asked about him and the response I got was, “Daddy…. he’s just a friend...” **UH HUH**…. We didn’t know the extent of the relationship but we **DID** know that Chris was a good, kind, hard working and focused young man…. and his focus on Regine? Well it was clear that he really loves her. And here we are, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ years later, and now Chris, not only do you get to marry my daughter, you’re now my **SON**… so no more of that “Sir” stuff… Call me whatever feels comfortable and right… just call me!!! (**Wait for the laugh**).

Regine and Chris, many people will offer advice about what it takes to have a good, strong, healthy marriage. I believe in looking to history for wisdom and I believe in looking to each other for strength. Shakespeare has described love:

“My bounty is as boundless as the sea,

My love as deep; the more I give to thee

The more I have for both are infinite.”

That’s a good starting point. He also teaches us:

Love looks not with the eyes but with the mind, and therefore is wing’d Cupid painted blind.”

But most important, we learn of the endurance and importance of a strong, solid union:

 “As long as men can breathe or eyes can see,

So long lives this, and this gives life to thee.”

Once again, I want to sincerely thank all of you for being here. Some have traveled from far and wide to share this moment and that means everything to Regine and Chris. It is a demonstration of love and faith and the importance of family and connection. Your presence here today affirms the necessity of family values and is the perfect acknowledgement of our new family.

Congratulations to our bride and groom. Let’s celebrate!