WEDDING SPEECH

FOR

DAVID SCHMIEMEIER

REVISED

Hello everyone. I am David and I am the proud father of our beautiful bride, Courtney. This is a wonderful moment for our family and we are all so happy that you are here to share our joy. Although I have five fantastic children, Courtney is the first to be married so this is a real milestone in Courtney’s big, beautiful, blended family (**You can say something like… “it’s like playing the name game!!” And mention all of the siblings and stepsiblings together… I think everyone wants to be acknowledged**) - Kristen, Nick, Kara, Andrew, Christine, Izzie, and Laura… what a team…. and family is so important to our bride and groom… in fact it’s safe to say that Courtney and Jimmy can thank their sisters (**Name the 2 sisters that introduced the couple**) Kristen and Emily for bringing these two together and inspiring this wedding. Each one of you here has a special relationship with this great couple and thanks to tonight’s festivities, we are all joined in the shared joy they radiate so freely and enthusiastically.

The English historian Thomas Fuller teaches us, ‘If you would have a good wife, marry one who has been a good daughter.” Jimmy, based on that I don’t have to tell you that you’ve hit the jackpot. Ever since she was a young child Courtney has been an inspiration to all of us, and her wonderful attitude and appreciation of life has blossomed even more… if that’s even **possible,** since she met you. And you are her official and permanent partner in all adventures!! I also have to say that clearly, as I look around this room, Courtney has always had wonderful friends and is a great friend to all… from her “first friends,” her brothers and sisters, to those she’s met later, having Courtney in your life is a gift of sunshine, enthusiasm, and kindness. To look at my daughter is to see happiness in motion. She loves life. She’s an active and able participant in many different disciplines and activities… I personally get tired just **thinking** of all of those half marathons she’s trained for and completed! She’s in the process of building a great career at HLK, and she is now a devoted and loving wife to Jimmy, who is making his own mark at his career at U.S.Tower (**Please double check this- in the speech order you referred to the company as American Tower**). As a graduate of Mizzou where she studied English and journalism, she also must have learned patience because it looks like it might have taken Jimmy a good **six** years to gather momentum to ask Courtney out on their first date! (**I got this info from the wedding website- let me know if this has to be adjusted**). Clearly he made the right move… they were great friends in the years leading up to that point and that bond of true friendship is the most important foundation for a happy and healthy marriage.

Benjamin Franklin said, “Wine is constant proof that God loves us and loves to see us happy.” Tonight provides clear evidence that Franklin was a wise, observant, and probably **thirsty** man. Among this couple’s shared interests is a love of wine, appreciation of great food, travel, shared adventure, and of course, the Cardinals! They are living proof of the adage, “A happy marriage is a long conversation which always seems too short.”

Jimmy, we are thrilled and proud to have you join our extended and growing family and you’ve been a part of this clan for quite some time. Courtney, on behalf of your stepmom, Andrea, I’d like to say, and I am sure your mother Kim and stepdad Kiko would agree, that you’ve found the proper **“prescription**” for a happy, healthy and love filled life!! And Jimmy, I would like to take a moment to congratulate your parents, Martha and Bob for our shared blessings, and I know we all look forward to making many memories together in the future.

 I think it’s only fitting to share some wisdom from Fleetwood Mac since they **almost** were present at a turning point in this couple’s relationship (**As a little joke do you want to present the couple with some donuts from Vincent Van Doughnut to “set the mood?” Is this a place that they still frequent? Wedding website says Courtney drowned her sorrows in them when she found out the Fleetwood Mac tix were sold)** … The plans for that night were altered to something **MUCH** more special and adventurous but the sentiments in the lyrics are very timely and timeless:

Sweet wonderful you,
You make me happy with the things you do,
Oh, can it be so,
This feeling follows me wherever I go.
I never did believe in miracles,
But I've a feeling it's time to try.
I never did believe in the ways of magic,
But I'm beginning to wonder why.
Don't, don't break the spell,
It would be different and you know it will,
You, you make loving fun,
And I don't have to tell you you're the only one.
You make loving fun.

Courtney, I look at you and Jimmy and another expression stays with me. “Now the girl is a woman and my daughter is the bride.” You have given me so much joy and love and I am proud to be your father. May you and Jimmy have more in life than you might ever wish for and I, along with the rest of our family and all of your friends, look forward to the two of you sharing a lifetime of happiness, health and fulfillment. Congratulations!! We love you!!