WEDDING SPEECH

FOR

RICHARD BUTLER

Thanks and hello! For those of you that may not know, I am Richard, Kyle’s father. My wife, Amy and I would like to extend a warm welcome to Cindy and Doug Ripkin, and to all of David’s family who have traveled from Cleveland and New York to be with us today. To all of our dear friends from back east, if we knew all it would take to get you out here was an open bar we would have done this sooner!!! (**Wait for the laugh**). It only took about thirty years for us to figure **THAT** out! I’m glad we did…A lot has happened in those thirty years and it is so great to see all of you. Sadly, some very important people were not able to join us today, but they are always very close. Kyle, you know your grandma is so proud of you-today and always and David, your grandmother’s heart and spirit are with both of you as well. To all of Kyle and David’s friends who have managed to travel from near and far to share this moment, we’re so happy to see **ALL** of you. …. Um, Kyle? Remember when you calmed me down with the now famous line, “Don’t worry Dad, there’s **NO WAY** they’re **ALL** going to make it…” **HA!!!** I **KNEW** you’d all show up to celebrate this wonderful couple. It’s a true testament to the power of friendship and the love that’s in the air today is palpable. (**If you want you can say**) … and I had to have a daughter that is a **MASTER** at social networking!! (**And wait for the laugh**).

It’s been said, “A person’s friendships are one of the best measures of his or her worth.” As I look around today I really know that we, and especially Kyle… and David, are truly blessed. My memory goes back to that night many years ago as we pulled out of Shifty’s driveway. We were leaving New Jersey and Kyle was leaving her dear friends. The combined tears of Ali, Jen, Corey, and Kimmy nearly flooded us in. Thank goodness that kids are resilient and once in Milwaukee, Kyle met Paige, and of course Gretchen, Lindsey, Ali and Claire. Soon after it was off to Miami with Ali and Paige… and I am **STILL** trying to figure **THAT** one out. This chapter brought Sara, Megan, Andrea and Molly. Kyle, I think it’s safe to say that you understand the meaning and gift of true friendship. I also want to say that you’ve always been and always will be my pride and joy; my beautiful loving daughter, and the source of so many of the blessings for which I am grateful, and along the way we too developed a true, meaningful friendship, but I am happy to add that the best for you was yet to come.

For those of you that might not know, it was Kyle that first asked David out in their senior year at school. What started as a fun date in Cincinnati evolved into a **GREAT** date that foretold the destiny of our bride and groom. They may have started the evening at a formal party but wound up at a beer and shot bar where the crowd believed they were newlyweds and the free beverages flowed!! After a while they returned to the first party but it was very clear to both that their spontaneity lit the spark that inspired a great friendship and a beautiful romance. What began as a little joke blossomed into the real thing and here we are today.

David, you won us over too and I want to officially welcome you to our family. Thank you for being the man you were raised to be and for treating my daughter with so much love and respect. Kyle, from the day you were born you’ve been my little girl and I will **NEVER** forget when I first saw you. The nurse said you looked like you dropped from my eye with that tuft of red hair and that little dimple in your chin… and now… you’re a beautiful, accomplished, talented woman. The whole family is so proud of your success and it’s no surprise that you’ve inherited **IT** from your grandfathers Len Butler and Bobby Gebhardt, and that is the gift of salesmanship… or salesPERSONship. You were destined to become “Kyle the Closer” and you didn’t let us down. I would, however, like to give just a little word of caution to David. Remember: Just because she’s good at sales doesn’t mean she’s going to take **ORDERS**!!

I want to thank all of you once again, for being here and sharing our joy. I also want to thank Amy for all that she has done to make this wonderful day a reality, and I would like to ask you all to rise and raise a glass as I propose a toast:

To Kyle and David, Thank you for making me the happiest man here today. My greatest wish is that your love and friendship grow and deepen through the years and that you will know only happiness and health and more than you could ever wish for! To Kyle and David Ripkin… Congratulations! We love you!