WELCOME SPEECH

FOR

JUD PHILLIPS

Hello everyone and welcome! Here we are at the rehearsal dinner for two of the most beautiful people I know, but first… (**If you want to make a joke you can say**)… maybe I’m filibustering and maybe I’ll pretend that I didn’t get the memo… but I thought the “rehearsal” dinner was **MY** opportunity to **practice** this speech, but since we’re pushing capacity crowds I have a feeling this probably wasn’t really supposed to be **MY** rehearsal…. (**Wait for the laugh**). For those of you that know me, you know that I can express myself with poise, skill and…. **emotion**… I admit it… when I was younger I cried at bar mitzvahs… even if I **hated** the kid… so please bear with me… I also know there are several distinguished attorneys in this crowd so I am choosing my words very carefully…. and as we all know… a **good** lawyer knows the law… a **great** lawyer knows the judge (**Wait for the laugh**)…. but an **excellent** lawyer is related to this family (**If you want you can sort of mumble as an aside**) … **THAT** should buy me some clemency for the next few minutes!! (**Wait for the laugh**). And one other thing as long as I’m clearing myself…when I was asked to speak I had only one stipulation for my gorgeous, poised, and elegant wife, OriAnn. Two small words… **ME**. **FIRST**. There was **NO WAY** I was going to follow her, so here goes…

Tonight begins the official wedding festivities of our terrific son Brandon to the beautiful Aly Greenblum…. a **MITZVAH** if I ever saw one! OriAnn and I have been blessed with three wonderful kids and right in the middle of our Trifecta is Brandon… more about Kace and Micall in the coming months...Let’s just say that 2016 is going to be a **BIG** year for the Phillips family (**Do you want to add “KNOCK ON WOOD?”).**

Brandon has been a terrific kid and a great son. He has always been great at sports and has expressed and acted on his passions since his youth. Imagine what he must have been like at sixteen… He loved aviation and at that young age got his pilot’s license! The determination… the drive… the focus… he must have gotten that from **MY** side of the family… (**Wait for the laugh**). He’s always done the right thing… that we **KNOW** of…and if he didn’t he was clever enough **NOT** to get caught… (**Wait for the laugh**)…. with the exception of that **ONE** time when he met and fell for the lovely young woman who is now his bride. And that is where our saga begins…

(**Do you want to use the word “Bershert?**”) In the land of cultural connections, it was probably destiny that brought Brandon and Aly together… we can say it was “Bershert,” or meant to be, or we can chalk it up to the law of averages. As we all know by now, Aly comes from a wonderful, **BIG**, loving family… consisting

of most of you here tonight… I mean who else is blessed with **TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY PEOPLE** at a rehearsal dinner? And in that big wonderful family **our** family knew three of Aly’s aunts… but somehow we were not acquainted with the branch that contained Aly, her mother, and her immediate family…. but as life and destiny have a way of magnetizing those whose lives are pre-destined, here we are. I know I speak for OriAnn and Kace and Micall when I say we could not be more thrilled that Brandon found this hidden treasure. Aly, we are so happy to finally and officially welcome you to our family. And although time is limited and I cannot name each one of Aly’s **MOTHERLODE** of immediate relatives, I will say, by proxy, to (**Name Aly’s parents**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, (**Do you also want to mention Aly’s siblings**”) and to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, we are delighted that our families are now officially joined. We have so much history with so many of you and let’s face it… when it comes to family, bigger is better! (**Do you want to add something like** … I have a feeling that Hannukkah is going to look like a reenactment of the burning of Atlanta… **and wait for the laugh… up to you… don’t want to get too…**).

To Brandon and Aly, before I push my limits of dignity and composure I want you to know that it is obvious that the two of you inspire connection, love, happiness and the reinforcement of family. I am proud to be able to call BOTH of you my children and OriAnn and I look forward to witnessing the two of you grow both as vital, engaged, resourceful and energetic individuals and as a happy married interested and interesting couple. May you both have more health, happiness and good fortune than you might ever wish for. Congratulations!! We love you!