BEST MAN SPEECH

FOR

SAB HERNANDEZ

Hello everyone…. if you’re here today it can mean only one thing… maybe two… You survived the pre-wedding deep-sea fishing expedition, or you’re a “landlubber” and you really, **really** love our bride and groom, Julie and Rob. For those of you that weren’t with us on the fishing trip, I’ve brought some souvenirs (**Take out a small and colorful children’s sand pail filled with different colors of gummy fish, raise the pail proudly and say**) … I thought it would be nice to share some of Rob’s catch… Look at those big ones!!! (**And wait for the laugh**). Let’s face it… he’s my big brother… I really look up to him… well, not **REALLY**… (**Look down, do a little short tall comparison hand gesture and wait for the laugh**) and I am honored and humbled that he has asked me to be his best man, a term I find ironic since we know who the **REAL** best man is…. it’s my older brother…. and before you get all mushy and “ooooo” and “aaaaahhhhh” and think how sweet I must be, remember…. I have **FOUR** older brothers… and I didn’t say which one…**GOTCHA!!** (**Wait for the laugh**). I love all my brothers and today, obviously, the true best man **IS** Rob… he’s married his beautiful bride Julie and our entire family could not be happier…. especially since this means there’s **PRACTICALLY NO** chance he will ever have to share a bedroom with all of us again!! (**Wait for the laugh**).

I know it may seem that I’m taking some cracks at Rob on the most important day of his life, but let’s face it… **I AM**. It’s just **so easy**… because I know him so well, because I love him so much, and because he loves to laugh… or at least **he used to**… until this speech… (**Wait for the laugh**). But in all sincerity, those of you that really know us know how close we all are. Like I said, we grew up as a tight knit family. Our parents always instilled in us that family means **HOME** and wherever we may be, the priority is to cherish and honor our bond and I know we all believe that. Growing up we were **really** close…. like all five of us brothers in one bedroom close… boy these guys must have been **THRILLED** when I came along… I always wondered how many toys they had to get rid of to make room for me… (**If you want, name some of your brother’s favorite toys or comic books**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ had to surrender Superman … \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ had to abandon \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, Joe had to dump \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, Rob had to give up \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.... oh wait a minute…. something tells me that Rob, the brains of the operation, didn’t have to give up much… he was too busy plotting and planning our future…. Folks, as a little aside, I would like to remind you that Rob, being the visionary, dedicated, “**hard worker**” … and by **hard worker**, I mean he’s been known to oversee the entire work operation from **COMMAND CENTRAL**… **AKA his bead**… **barely** cracks a sweat … **NEVER** broke a nail… makes it look smooth and easy… while our brothers and cousins and father do all the work… but I digress… he always has been and is, a hard worker and took our brother Joe’s lead in the electrical constitution business (**Do you mean construction? Please revise to correct word**), turned it into a terrific business… one that employs our 3 male cousins, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and all of us. **SO**… on **THAT** note, I think that as I recall that Rob may technically be my boss, it might be time to switch to the **heartfelt** and **loving** part of this speech (**Wait for the laugh**).

Julie, we are all so excited to officially have you as our sister… even though you have been for a long time. You won Rob’s heart and got all of us in the deal and we could not be happier. You’re a beautiful soul and a wonderful person, mother and now wife. Scott and Emma are great and it is so gratifying to think that the Hernandez legacy will continue through the traditions they are living and inheriting right now. Remember that Mom and Dad instilled in us that family is home, and **YOU** and Scott and Emma are our home too. We love you.

Rob, I know how much meaningful talks and long walks along moonlit beaches mean to you…. I meant with **ME**!!! When we would go fishing together!!! (**Wait for the laugh**). We would talk about everything on those trips… life and fishing, family and love. In fact there’s one **HUGE** sign that tells me just how much you love Julie… and that is that we are here… right now…. in this room… and **NOT FISHING**. (**Wait for the laugh**). I know how much you love to kid around and crack jokes, but I also know just how big your heart is and how much you love Julie, Scott, Emma and all of us. I am honored to be your brother.

There’s an old Chinese proverb that goes, “Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day, **TEACH** a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime.” I’ll go one step further… “Teach a man to love to fish and you have a metaphor for life.” Through fishing you show us all what a joy it is to be Rob Hernandez. You feed us, you inspire us, you teach us, you make us laugh, and you really hooked the **BIG ONE** when somehow you inspired Julie to fall in love with you. (**Wait for the laugh**). I’m sure you know by now that marriage is like fishing… it’s a dance of push and pull… it’s patience and tenacity… it’s loving the chase and respecting and appreciating the catch, and most of all, it’s being present and thoroughly enjoying the ride, or as someone much more expressive than me once said, “The charm of fishing is that it is the pursuit of what is elusive but attainable, a perpetual series of occasions for **hope**.”

On that note, I would like to invite all of you to raise a glass as I propose a toast to our bride and groom…

Here’s to Julie and Rob. Welcome **home**… to a life of love and family, health, happiness and prosperity, and more than each one of you might ever wish for. May you and Scott and Emma find love and light for and from each other. Congratulations! We love you!