WEDDING SPEECH

FOR

GEORGE GARCIA

Hello everyone. For those of you that may not know, I am George and I am Edward’s older brother. I would like to take a few moments to share some thoughts about my brother and the kind of person he is, I’d also like to offer a little wisdom on marriage and most of all **family,** and today is a perfect time to express what I have to say. As we are all here gathered to celebrate bonds of love and trust and new beginnings, I want to welcome our **new** family, honor our original family, and express some hopes and dreams for the future. We are here in this beautiful setting, experiencing and appreciating nature and all of God’s great gifts, and I know we all feel the joy and love that fills the air. Today (**Tonight?**) we honor the past, acknowledge the present, and anticipate the future…. especially of our bride and groom, Felisa and Edward. Felisa, before I continue I just want to welcome you to our family. You are a beautiful bride, a wonderful person, and I know Edward is so proud to now call you “Wife.” I am also happy to finally and officially be able to welcome you to the Garcia family as my sister.

Edward and I grew up in a humble household (**If you have any other siblings name them here**) along with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Although I’m sure everyone here with us tonight appreciates their own unique circumstances under which they were raised, I want to say that we were blessed to grow up on a farm and we had two very special parents. Sadly our father passed away in 2010 but he is very much alive in our hearts and our memories and his spirit is very present here today at this wedding. Those of us that knew and loved (**Name your father**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ remember his rugged, strong, stubborn personality- he might have been tough, but he was a farmer… a **REAL** farmer who never turned away from the constant pressure of his job. He was a man who appreciated and respected what it meant to work hard, care for family, and accept and honor responsibility- no matter what. His toughness is a memory now but it is his **stubbornness** that continues to inspire and motivate us and **keeps him alive** within us. He instilled a work ethic in us, his children, like no other and it is thanks to him that Edward and I (**Add your other siblings if any**) and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, are the people we are today. Anything we have achieved is due to the way in which we were raised. Thank goodness our mother (**Name your mother**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is with us … and if I might add, looking wonderful and happy!! She has always been the heart of this family and has cared for us, fed us, encouraged and nurtured us throughout our lives. (**If you see any characteristics in Edward that remind you of your mother, mention that here**) A wise man once said, “I am part of all that I have met,” and fortunately we Garcia kids are made up in huge part of our beautiful mother and strong, stubborn, and devoted father. I see characteristics of both of our parents in Edward. I think he inherited his gift of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ from our father and got our mother’s way with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to balance! (**If your father used expressions to motivate you or teach you lessons or show you just how stubborn he really was, mention that here**) Our father used to motivate us … or scold us… depending on the situation, with some very special expressions. I can hear his voice right now telling us, “ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_!” Or he would say, “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_... “ It’s things like those sayings that stay with us and make him live forever within us and in turn inspire us to be who we are today. And don’t worry…. in her own loving way, our mother used to get her point across by reminding us, (**Mention one of her funny or endearing expressions and wait for the laugh if appropriate**) “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_!!” Right, Mom???

While we were growing up, Edward was always the quiet and shy type and the adult we know today is not much different. (**Name a couple of memories that you have of Edward’s shyness standing out in a situation**) I remember when we were growing up, Edward used to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. And I will never forget the time when he was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ years old and I was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and he \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Remember that one Edward? We had our adventures throughout our young lives but we never forgot our roots, our upbringing, or the lessons our parents taught us. We also never forgot the importance of family.

Some people may warn to “Be careful of those **quiet ones**” but the poet William Wordsworth reminds us, “The flower that smells the **sweetest** is shy and lowly.” (**If you want to make a joke you can say**) … I think it’s safe to say that Wordsworth never ran into Edward right after he left the gym (**Or name another sport or practice Edward does**)!” (**And wait for the laugh**). Edward, you know I’m joking, and I know how reserved you are, but I also know what a rock and a backbone you are in this family and I know how proud of you we all are. There’s an old proverb that goes, “Quiet people are well able to look after themselves.” That is definitely the case with my brother.

Yes, Edward has been the “Strong silent type” for most of his life. And then one day he met a young woman named Felisa (**If you want to make a joke you can say**)… Of course we found out just how quiet and shy Edward can **REALLY** be since we didn’t find out about Felisa until about \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ months after they met! And that’s when we realized just how good he was at being discreet and keeping a secret! (**Wait for the laugh**). It’s been \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ years since they first started seeing each other …and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ years since we all met, and I have to say Edward, this has been your best kept secret as well as your best gift to the family!! (**Take a moment to acknowledge Felisa’s family and welcome them to yours**). To Felisa’s parents, Isabel and Felipe, on behalf of the Garcia’s we want to congratulate you and officially welcome you to our family. (**Name any siblings of Felisa’s**) To \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, we want to welcome all of you as well and we look forward to some great gatherings in the future. (**If you want to acknowledge any grandparents of Felisa’s that are still alive, do that here**). To Felisa’s grandparents, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, I am sure you know that you have a sweet, smart, caring and beautiful granddaughter. She has inherited the traditions and legacy her family instilled in her through each one of you and we are honored to now witness the passage into future generations through the marriage of these two great people.

So many people have given “rock solid” wisdom on what it takes to have a happy, satisfying, and lasting marriage. I wanted to give you some of the best advice around, so here goes. Many of you may not have heard of Henny Youngman but he was a comedian who commented about marriage. I hope you still think he was funny when you hear what he had to say so here goes… “ Some people ask for the secret of our long marriage. It’s simple. We take time to go out to a restaurant at least two times a week…. A little candle light, some dinner, soft music… maybe even dancing. She goes Tuesdays. I go Fridays.” (**Wait for the laugh**). Oh…. he also said, “We always hold hands. If I let go, she shops.” (**Wait for the laugh**) Edward, some other advice… “The best way to remember your wife’s birthday is to forget it…. **ONCE**.” Don’t do that. **Really**. (**Wait for the laugh**). Felisa, some famous women have some advice for you as well… Natalie Wood said, “Marriage is like a phone call in the middle of the night… first the ring and then you wake up.” (**Wait for the laugh**) You know I’m joking… but just remember to be mindful, respectful and considerate of each other… because it has also been said, “A happy marriage is a long conversation that is always too short.”

(**If you want to propose a toast you can say**):

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

(**If no toast you can just say**):

Here’s to Felisa and Edward. May you have a lifetime of health and prosperity, happiness and discovery. May you turn stubbornness into steadfast commitment and as you honor the legacies of your families, here’s to a future filled with more than you might ever wish for. Congratulations! We love you!