WEDDING SPEECH

FOR

HUBERT PEREIRA

Hello everyone!! I am Hubert and for those of you that may not know, I am the extremely proud father of the groom, Jeffrey. Today is a very special day for our family as we witness Jeffrey and Gina exchange their wedding vows. Jeffrey is the second of our three sons and we are so proud of the person that he has become. Gina, (**Name your wife**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and I want to welcome you to our family and I would like to extend special congratulations to your parents \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. May this be the beginning of many happy occasions shared by our newly extended family.

Having three sons like Jeffrey, (**name your other two sons**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ has been the blessing of a lifetime and has provided both my wife and me with priceless lessons about love, family, relationships, faith, and patience. The **GOOD** news is that having a child like Jeffrey has been incredible. He has always been a wonderful boy, a thoughtful son, and a genuine, loving and nurturing man whose heart of gold distinguishes him as a very rare individual. His love of life… his compassion for others… oh, I could go on and on… He has always followed his faith devoutly and through his dedication to his career as a teacher he continues to inspire and encourage the next generation. The **BAD** news? Well…. (**Say this with emphasis**) I have **absolutely no dirt** or embarrassing stories to share!! This guy is wonderful!! Really!! (**Wait for the laugh**)… This also brings up another issue that could even discredit the great French philosopher Voltaire who is believed to have said, “Behind every great man is a **surprised** mother-in-law **shaking her head**.” (**Turn to the bride’s mother and say**) Sorry \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_... \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and I know we are blessed as parents and though we may be biased, we truly believe this won’t be the case with you! (**Wait for the laugh**).

To know Jeffrey is to love him… just ask anyone… even his students. His teaching career now spans ten years… that’s ten years of patience, diligence, inspiration, humor. We have seen first hand the adoration and respect he gets from his colleagues and his students and we know that through his work he has made an enormous and positive impact on the future of his community. Jeffrey, we love you dearly as a son, we admire you greatly as a man, and we want you to know that we also **appreciate** you. You are the kind of person that would make any parent proud. You’ve accomplished so much in your life so far, but your greatest achievement has been to be true to yourself while remaining a positive, good soul as you honor those you love.

So what has made Jeffrey tick for all of these years? We, his family, have observed him as he has developed from an eager and excited boy into the man he has become. He has always demonstrated a love for life and the gifts it provides and his enthusiasm is infectious. Growing up he was an avid tennis player…. he “**got a kick**” out of soccer too (**You can add, “Get it?” if you want to and wait for the laugh**). As he has matured we’ve witness his tastes become more sophisticated…he has switched to the more “refined” sport of golf and whereas in his earlier days he appreciated a good glass of **rum and coke** on ice, his palate has developed as well and now has a great appreciation for fine vintage wines.

Jeffrey has also demonstrated that his passions are lifelong, steadfast, and non-negotiable, however his love and devotion for sports cars and the Dallas Cowboys have finally been eclipsed by the love of a wonderful young woman… yes Gina, that’s you. And of course when something is genuine and real and monumental, the world recognizes and celebrates…. could there have been anything better than going to Dallas to see a live Cowboys game and winding up on the local news? I don’t think so!!

Jeffrey and Gina, you are both fine, loving people devoted to one another and eager to officially join forces and hands to journey through life together. As your father I would be remiss if I didn’t make an attempt at sharing some age-old wisdom with you so of course I will. Here goes, and fortunately thanks to all of the information literally at our fingertips, I was able to find some words that are timeless, priceless, and hopefully worthy of two such wonderful young people. Jeffrey, I know you’ve heard the expression, “Happy wife, happy life.” I will take that one step further as I encourage you both to communicate lovingly with each other and with respect as I say, “Remember, women always have **the last word** in an argument. Anything after that is **the beginning** of a **new argument**.” (**Wait for the laugh**).

**(If you would like to make a toast you can say this…. if not just say the final sentence**)

Ladies and gentlemen, I invite you to raise a glass as I propose a toast to our bride and groom:

To Jeffrey and Gina, Here’s to a lifetime filled with happiness and health, partnership and respect, and may you flourish and grow together with faith, humor, and love. Congratulations! We love you!!