BEST MAN SPEECH

FOR

TONY PRICE

Hello everyone! What a great moment for a wedding … and especially one in which two…. (**If you want to make a joke you can say**)…. Welll… at least **ONE**…. **speaking of Best Man speeches**… “**Cough**”…Gene (**And wait for the laugh**)… of my favorite people…. nah… **TWO** of my favorite people have declared their love and eternal devotion to one another in front of God… and man…. and all of us. Gene, you delivered an **unforgettable** speech at my wedding almost twelve years ago… I’m still **wincing**… (**Wait for the laugh**) and you know what **THEY** say… Well, **I** know what **I say**… but I remembered we had to pass through **security clearance** to get here … then I realized I’d be facing a roomful of attorneys… well… maybe **half** a roomful of attorneys **I better edit**…. then I thought…”Hey… the other half are doctors… if the crowd… or the groom gets “ugly”…. help is nearby!! So…. let’s see how this goes. (**Look at the groom with a sly “side eye” and wait for the laugh**) Nervous Gene???

What can one say about a man who has been a brick… I said **BRICK**… a rock… a firm and steadfast support… Maybe he should have gone into construction? (**Wait for the laugh**). I will tell you what **I** would say…. I’m proud to have a lifelong friendship with someone so “**solid**.” Gene and I have been friends for what seems to be forever. We met way back in high school… I know… we were **SUPPOSED** to be learning…. (**Wait for the laugh**) Over the years we have had some great times…. This is the part where I pretend I don’t remember… **ANYTHING**…. (**Give a big grin and wait for the laugh**). As I look back on the years that have gone by, I can see we’ve had a **remarkable** friendship. (**If you two got into trouble you can name some of the authority figures that may have been involved… these are just examples**). … The guidance counselors remarked…. our fathers remarked… the **JUDGE** remarked… (**Wait for the laugh**)… But we grew up and our friendship grew geometrically… through college… through your adventures in law school…. by the way, I always **KNEW** that Gene would make a great attorney… I loved that he never let the truth get in the way of a good story… (**Wait for the laugh**) … and through our early careers… through dating and sports events… and here we are… taking our vows and building our families. We met when we were fifteen. We’ve been **tied at the hip** ever since… which I imagine will come in handy as we continue our friendship into steely **old age**…. and may we be laughing and carrying on and be there **to break each other’s fall… and NOT each other’s hip**… Gene, it’s been said, “Your closest friends are the brothers and sisters that God forgot to give you. He made up for it with you… **BIG TIME**. I am so proud to be your best man and your friendship has been one of the great honors of my life.

Jamie, you are a beautiful, effervescent being, full of joy, compassion and purpose. You’re a bundle of everything good and your love for life resonates with everyone you meet. Thank you for coming into Gene’s life and ours. You not only know what is best for my friend, you **ARE** what’s best for him. I will never forget the moment when Gene told me he was thinking of getting married… He told me he was so in love with Jamie and he was ready to pop the question. “So Tony, what do you think?” I paused … for a while… anyone in this room who is married knows one doesn’t answer without really, **REALLY** thinking about the response… “Gene, I’ve been married for twelve years (applause)… of course it’s been to **three different women**… but when you add up the years… **it’s all hard time**!!! **KIDDING**!! (**Wait for the laugh**).

Jamie and Gene, we have all come together to celebrate this new life you have begun to build together. As I look around the room, I see so many familiar faces and each one holds a memory and sparks a thought… some have been around as long as I’ve known Gene and some have joined us through the years. We’ve had our ups and downs and together those aggregate memories, especially the ones involving Gene and now Jamie, have contributed to making me a very blessed man. I would like to break precedent and say that if I could give you one wish on a candle, it would be that your life together is as fulfilled and rich as the one I have, thanks, in large part, to the two of you. When you look into each other’s eyes know that you have achieved the ultimate… you’ve found true and abiding love. That really is everything that makes life worthwhile.

The two of you inspire me to say that I want you to remember this moment and revel in it; I want you to be swept away in love and passion… to have a feeling of weightlessness from the euphoria of sharing this life you’ve created… to be there for each other and continue to fall head over heels in love… day after day after day. Tonight is one of many magic moments you will share. Cherish them and try to fill every day with a demonstration of how much you care for one another.

I would like to invite you all to raise a glass as I propose a toast…

Throughout life and legend there have been some “dynamic duos:”

Tony and Gene (of course)

Bradshaw and Swann

Bert and Ernie

Simon and Garfunkel

Jordan and Pippen

…and to these ranks we add Diaz and Robinson.

Oscar Wilde may have said, “Marriage is a triumph of imagination over intelligence,” but he didn’t know the two of you… You two are the complete package and I know everyone in this room… and beyond… wishes you a lifetime of love and passion, health and happiness, partnership and peace. Congratulations! We love you!