**BEST MAN SPEECH**

**FOR**

**JOSEPH FAULISI**

Hello everyone... or as we should have learned at a very young age, thanks to Benny, "**Ni Hao**." (**This is Chinese for "Hello" and is pronounced "nee how"**). You might be wondering how or why I know this, or even what it is or means... I could say, "Ask Benny," but he's a little busy today. I could also say, "**Wo Yao ding yizhang dao Shanghai de wangfan jipiao"** but I'll let you know in a few minutes if that seems necessary. (**It sort of means, "I would like to purchase a one way ticket to Shanghai".... say the Chinese and wait for the laugh**). In short, and in English, today we celebrate a tremendous milestone. **Benny left the house.** (**Wait for the laugh**). What I really mean is that it is a real occasion tonight, to have the privilege to stand up for my brother Benny as his best man at his wedding to his beautiful bride, Daniela. It's obvious with so many of you here that the most important things in life are friends and family, and seeing all of you celebrating these two is really great. Today our family grows to include Daniela and **her** family and we officially welcome all of the (**give Daniela's last name**) Peretta's (?) to **our** family. (**Do you want to congratulate her parents, siblings, or grandparents? If so, you can do that here**). I would like to extend special congratulations to Daniela's parents, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, her \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and I know I speak for all of us in the Faulisi family when I say that we are excited to make new memories with all of you.

I love my family and I am so proud of my sister Daniela and my brothers... (**if your younger brother goes after you, you can say**) ... and Anthony, I know you'll do a great job batting clean up after me... but tonight I'm here to honor Benny.... brother, partner, entrepreneur... **husband**. Some of you might be wondering, "what was it like growing up as Benny's older brother?" Well, let's say it was great.... having Benny as a brother got me to see and learn things I would not have otherwise known.... like our father's red faced wrath when Benny would start in with me.... yeah... Benny stirred the **SH**.....enanigans but we never lost site of just how **close** we were... until Dad had to pull us apart. I don't want anyone to think we fought all the time.... we didn't. That would have cut into Benny's true childhood passions... playing office and watching the Chinese station on cable... (**Hold your hands up like "WHAT⁉**️**⁉**️**⁉**️**⁉**️**" and wait for the laugh**)... Really.... what little kid do **YOU** know that runs around the house with a **briefcase**???? ... and that watches Chinese TV? I've heard the expression, "Give me the child when he is seven years old and I will show you the man," but come on!!! **REALLY**⁉️⁉️⁉️ (**Wait for the laugh**). I think Benny might be the only one in this room that knows what I said earlier.... "Hello. I'd like to purchase a one way ticket to Shanghai." (**Wait for the laugh**). Yes. Benny was always special. Unique... resourceful... ahead of his time... ask my mother about that.... like the time Mom needed some tomatoes. Benny was asked to get them. He was fourteen at the time. He went and got them alright... in the family car... **DRIVING**... at **fourteen**... Benny... the briefcase made you look older, but REALLY⁉️⁉️⁉️ **REALLY**⁉️⁉️⁉️⁉️

That's Benny... creative... smart... wise... thoughtful...in so many ways (**say that with a wink**).... and for the most part a real **stay-at-home** kind of guy.... except for that time when Uncle \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ had someone else's Uncle \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ over at the house, and a very fateful phone call was made..... and the rest is history. We all know what happened .... eventually.... "when Harry met Sally," and now we know what happened "when Benny met Daniela...."

When something is right, you just know it, and I'm happy to say that's how it's been with these two. Benny finally showed us that there really is only **one** reason to leave the house... and it's not necessarily to "steal" Mom's car to get tomatoes.... Benny stepped out to meet his destiny... I mean his Daniela... and that's exactly what happened. And I know we're all so happy to welcome you, Daniela, to our family.... you became a part of us very naturally and fairly quickly and we wouldn't have it any other way. It's great to have you in our corner... you make our brother so happy... you're a great friend... you're there when we need you... you've been there when **I** need you... and your "take no prisoners" philosophy of life serves and protects **all of us**.... and our chaises at pools... note to hotel guests when Daniela is around.... those are **OUR** chaises... (**wait for the laugh**).

Benny... I want you to know that having you as a brother, a partner, and most of all as a **friend**, has been one of the great blessings of my life. I want to wish you and Daniela. more than everything and anything you two might ever wish for... and I would like to invite all of you to raise a glass as I propose a toast...

To Daniela and Benny... here's to all the best of love, health, happiness, prosperity.... and **FAMILY**!! Congratulations... we love you!