**FATHER OF THE GROOM SPEECH**

**FOR**

**RICK CORRA**

Hello everyone! For anyone that still might not know who I am or why in heaven's name I would voluntarily get up in front of a crowd when I could be enjoying this incredible atmosphere and this wonderful food, I'm Rick and I am the proud father of our groom, Britt. (**Do you want to mention your wife/Britt's mother? If so...**) On behalf of Britt's mother, Kathy, and myself, I want to thank all of you for being here and for sharing our joy as our son and his beautiful wife, Andrea celebrate their marriage.

It's so fitting that you're all here because as I look around at this gorgeous crowd, I see people who, over the years, have played such an important role in our son's life. I see friends like \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ who goes way back to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. I see family...there's \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ who has known Britt for just about all of his life (**If you want to make a joke you can say**) Andrea.... I hope you're taking notes.... this one just might have some good material on Britt...... (**and wait for the laugh**). There's an expression that goes, "I am part of all that I have met." Each one of you helped to shape Britt into the fine young man he is today. (**If you don't want humor, you can remove the funny part.... just providing an option)**

Britt, of course occasions such as these give parents a guaranteed ticket to take a walk down memory lane and remember what it was like when you were born... as you grew up... and as you evolved into the man we see and celebrate today. And I have to say, emotions aside... you were and always have been a wonderful son. It's so much easier to focus on the good qualities you possess in abundance.... and those challenging times... if there were any, they were good practice for us to learn about life and what it's like to be a parent.... (**If you want to make a joke, you can say**) and Your mother and I take great comfort in reminding ourselves that " What goes around...." (**And wait for the laugh- once again, remove the little joke if you feel it's not appropriate**). You know I'm kidding... you have always strived to be the best that you might possibly be able to be, and to witness your success... as **YOU** define it, has been such a pleasure for us. Your kindness and your love of your family is a great testimony to the way we raised you, and having your brother, Travis, stand beside you today is a heartwarming acknowledgement that he is always your **best man**... standing by your side and always having your back. Also knowing that your grandfather is a big part of your life has made me so proud to be your father.

Britt, you're a great son, a dedicated brother and friend, an admired professional, and now we can add to that "devoted husband." We're so thrilled that you have found the woman of your dreams, Andrea is as kind as she is beautiful, as smart as she is sweet, and together you two have your entire lives ahead.... filled with hopes and dreams and adventures fulfilled. Andrea, you've become like a daughter to Kathy and me, and now it's official.... you are!! We love you and we welcome you to our family with open arms!!!

Britt and Andrea make a beautiful couple and a perfect match. Both are intelligent, caring, ambitious and good natured people with goals and dreams and an awareness and playfulness that allows them to be open to the future.... Kathy and I can't wait to see where this adventure takes them.

To Don and Kristy, I can see from where Andrea gets all of her stellar qualities. You are warm, wonderful people and and we really look forward to experiencing life with our newly extended family. I also want to thank you for making this great celebration possible. To Cousin Amanda, acknowledgements could not possibly be complete if we didn't recognize you for the vital roll you played in bringing these two together. (**If you want to make a joke you can say**) Your skills for spotting and wrangling the "hot guy (**I read this on the wedding website**) are world class.... brava!!! Please do us all a favor and add "**Cupid**" to your résumé (**Wait for the laugh- once again.... just suggesting some humor. If you don't feel comfortable saying this, just eliminate the funnier part**). I also have to say that as I look at my own wife Kathy, the groom's beautiful mother, it's clear to me why our son is so special. Kathy, thank you for all you've done to raise our sons and for the efforts and love you have put in to making this moment such a success. Travis, once again, thank you for being there for your brother.... we all know how much this means to him. Britt, your mother and I have always been proud of you and we can't imagine having a more exemplary son.

I'd like to invite all of you to raise a glass as I propose a toast.

To Andrea and Britt.... today is a special day filled with love, celebration, and endless hopes and good wishes for a wonderful future. Keep the memory of this moment with you as you go through life together, and remember how you feel... right here... right now as you begin your path together. Never lose sight of the love and respect that brought you to the altar as you made that ultimate commitment to one another. May the both of you share in life's joys, and may you laugh, love, and respect one another in happiness, health and prosperity. Congratulations!!! We love you!!