**WEDDING SPEECH**

**FOR**

**DAVID TOURVILLE**

Hello everyone!!! Arlene and I want to thank all of you for being here tonight to celebrate this fine couple... it’s a blessing to be able to dance at a wedding, especially our son’s... to be joined by so many good friends and family... and to be moved by the rhythm and the atmosphere of the occasion... we can’t imagine \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ hundred people with whom we’d rather share that blessing!!! We want you to know that we really appreciate the efforts that all of you made to join us, especially those of you that “went the distance” ... **literally**... to be here. ... and the next time you hear someone say, “the universe provides” or that all you need to know is right in front of you.... **BELIEVE**!!! I have to say that while I was organizing my thoughts and entering them into my phone, as I typed the word, “distance,” my phone “attempted” to suggest a correction... DeStefano, which, oddly enough is the name of the guests that have traveled the farthest to be here tonight...representing the Big Apple, New York City! Come to think of it, knowing how technology has infiltrated our lives and seeing the proliferation of predictive intelligence, I’m now concerned that Siri may be annoyed she didn’t get an invitation to join us here tonight... oh well... if she is, I guess I’ll hear about it later!! (**Wait for the laugh**)

Tonight, as Luke marries Amanda, so many thoughts of our son come to mind.... I affectionately call him, “LT,” and believe me, it **NEVER** stood for “less talented!” Ever since we can remember, LT has been mastering the art of self expression... Luke loves theater and dance, and with each performance, he demonstrated his talent, his skills.... his determination... back when he was competing... performing in local and regional (?) dance recitals, there were times he was the only male, dancing... partnering... twirling... lifting... sometimes **FIFTEEN** girls on his team... talk about **MULTI-TASKING**!!! (**Wait for the laugh**). If only all of you could have seen him dancing to “The Devil Went Down to Georgia...” it was **STELLAR**!!! He faced those challenges... he got through.... admirably... and he learned to handle whatever life placed in his path.... except for that **ONE** time... The dance was “Takin Care of Business....” The lights go up.... **Four** suitcases... four boys, each one standing on top of a suitcase, guitars in hand... jamming to the music... **WAIT**... there are only **THREE BOYS** and **one** lonely suitcase... the music had already begun... and out from the wings... LT comes rushing up to the stage to take his place on that last case... apparently Luke got caught up in a hot poker game waiting backstage for his entrance... the word of the night... **MULTITASK**!!! (**Wait for the laugh**).

Theater and performing have played an enormous part in the life... and heart of our son, Luke.... he’s done commercials... if you **DIDN’T** blink during the Super Bowl, you just might have seen him in that commercial for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. He’s done voiceovers and can do a mean impersonation of Robert DeNiro. I’m still trying to process the thought of being Travis Bickle’s (**that was DeNiro’s character in Taxi Driver**) father.... “**YOU TALKIN TO ME**??” (**Do a little impersonation and wait for the laugh**).

Back in middle school early on in his performing career, LT played a part in Fiddler on the Roof... as Tevye... a character that witnesses changing times while plotting and planning and caring for his family.... LT, maybe playing that father can give you a little insight about how I feel tonight... proud, filled with emotion, and knowing that my children’s happiness is the most important thing in this world. For you, I think it all came together that Sunday night, in between performances of “A Christmas Carol” when you planned that “backstage tour” with Amanda.... standing on stage ... a place you love so much... alone in the space with the love of your life, the lights went black.... but then... one glimmer of light... and then the floods went on... and she said, “**YES**!!!” ... and here we are....

Life is good... it’s sweet.... it’s ever changing... and now, as Luke looks forward to his first “**REAL**” job as a Physician’s Assistant ... giving his heart and soul to performance will definitely make him the most charismatic PA in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (**If LT doesn’t yet have a job in that field, name the city in which he lives**) and his wife by his side, the world is wide open and filled with potential for Luke and Amanda. (**Do you want to congratulate Amanda’s family? If so...**). To \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ , Arlene and I congratulate you and we look forward to sharing times and making memories as a newly extended family... **HOUSE SEATS FOR EVERYONE**!!! ... if we’re lucky!!! ... and Luke? Your captive audience has grown!!! (**Wait for the laugh**). To Amanda, I know that meeting Luke all those years ago must have been a **LIFTING**... I mean **UPLIFTING** experience... thank goodness he didn’t drop you.... and now, as part of our family, I know we will all share many more uplifting times to come... Welcome!!

Before I invite all of you to raise a glass, I’d like to point something out... The champagne we are drinking tonight is the same champagne served at Prince Harry & Meghan’s royal wedding. It’s “Champagne, Pol Roger, Épernay, FR”... this is so fitting on several levels... LT has always been our “prince,” these two share a love of life and of each other... like “**those two**,” and let’s face it, as we have always said, Luke could play Prince Harry in the movie... show of hands... who sees the resemblance? ...And for those of my friends... the oenophiles... the aficionados, the “**details police**,” please count to ten... **slowly** and wait until **AFTER** the toast before getting on your phones and “verifying” that I am right about the champagne!! (**Wait for the laugh**).

Ladies and gentlemen, I invite you to please raise a glass... of... yes... **“Champagne, Pol Roger, Épernay, FR”**  as I propose a toast:

To Amanda and Luke, upon birth, parents begin to dream... for healthy, happy, wise and good children... they... we... also dream of moments like this. First, last year, with Alison and Bryan...Now it’s **YOUR** turn... as husband and wife, to do the same... the dream officially began one second after those floods came back on... with four little words... “Yes, yes, yes, **YES**!!!” and now they will be your guide for the rest of your lives. Here’s to a life filled with health, happiness, endless conversation and a million more uplifting moments... Congratulations!! We love you!!