**WEDDING SPEECH**

**FOR**

**BOB KAMENA**

Hello everyone.... If we’re really **REALLY** lucky, we get to have a few life changing moments, tonight is one of those.... and although we imagine and prepare and plan how it’s going to be, reality is usually more overwhelming than those dreams. There’s so much to be thankful for and there are tons of memories that rush to my mind.....Lauren, you were, are, and always will be my little girl, but tonight you’ve shown us what a gorgeous, poised, married woman is. I am so happy for you and Chris, and considering how much he loves you, how happy the two of you are, and that he’s been a Master Sergeant in the United States Air Force for the past ten years.... and can probably “keep me in line”.... **IF** he wanted to....I want you both to know it’s really an honor to finally be able to call him my “son.”

Tonight the two of you have “officially” started your branch of our combined family and with that in mind, there are some people I would like to acknowledge. To Michele, thank you for all that you’ve done for making this day even more special for Lauren... (**Do you want to say**) when I see all that our daughter has accomplished.... when I see how she lives her life with such joy and energy, and when I watch her and Chris together, I know we “got it right.” To Chris’ parents, Suzanne and Daryl, you’ve got a great son and I’m proud to have him now as my family too. Thanks for all you’ve done to make this wedding as beautiful and unforgettable as it is. And this is just the beginning! I look forward to having the chance to reminisce with you both about this night for many years to come. To Gerri and Phil.... better known as Nanny and Pop Pop, or the best grandparents anyone might ever wish for, who would have thought that your... **OUR** pride and joy could get any better? Here’s the proof.... she’s been a wonderful daughter, a devoted granddaughter, and now a gorgeous, ecstatic bride... and I know that throughout their lives together, Lauren and Chris will continue to make you and all of us even more proud. Lauren, there’s one person that isn’t technically here, but I promise you, your Grandma Anne wouldn’t have missed this for the world. I know that wherever she is, she is smiling down on you and Chris right now.

Lauren, where do I begin to let people know just how much you mean to me... you’re my girl, my buddy, my fellow sports fanatic ... **GO RAIDERS**... sorry... back to business. (**Wait for the laugh**). We’ve done a lot together, but the times that come back to me... those are the special moments..... like.... who can **EVER** forget the time I took you for a haircut... Daddy/Daughter bonding time... Honey.... I have to say you look **STUNNING** tonight, but honestly... let’s be real... does tonight’s look even come **CLOSE** to that mullet we created **TOGETHER** back when you were.... seven... eight years old? Cmon... I think not!!! .... and frankly, I’m a little surprised you didn’t ask me to come along to consult on hair and make up for tonight.... (**Wait for the laugh**)

Lauren, you’ve also always been an incredible athlete... Division 1 college sports.... involved in so many activities, but somehow you managed to make it all work. I remember the time there was a crucial softball game, but somehow, **SOMEBODY (put one hand up as if to shield the other and point to Lauren -I don’t think you should implicate her mother**) had a little conflict of interest.... there was a dance recital on the morning of the same day.... ah...the pitfalls of popularity... but do you remember how we worked it out? I do.... a new trend was started when you showed up for the game... in your **TUTU** (**Wait for the laugh**).

Lauren, we’ve been through a lot and I could go on, but I might turn into too much of a mush.... but there’s one thing I want you... and everyone to know. Since the day you were born there hasn’t been a moment that I haven’t loved and cherished you unconditionally.... it’s (an intentionally) tough standard to follow, but I am confident that Chris is up to the task. Chris... in case you didn’t notice, there’s a **NEW** boot camp in town... have you checked Lauren’s shoe closet???? (**Wait for the laugh**).

(**If you want, have a large bag of lightly toasted bagels with you.... the standard favorites, and keep them hidden**) This is the point in the festivities when the bride’s father offers some words of wisdom, some good luck, fatherly advice.... bla bla bla type of thing.... And I believe in tradition.with **flair**.... I **TOO**, would like to over a toast.... Who gets the scooped out whole wheat everything? Well done pumpernickel??? (**Wait for the laugh**)

Okay... for real this time... I’d like to invite everyone to raise a glass:

Today is really the official beginning of your life together. Right here, right now, these moments will be the memories you’ll hold close... Song lyrics tend to stay with me...and the Beatles provided some of the most unforgettable

“There are places I remember

All my life though some have changed

Some forever not for better,

Some have gone, and some remain,

All these places have their moments....

In my life, I’ve loved them all.”

And **YOU** kiddo... are undisputed champ at the top of the list! To Lauren and Chris, I wish the both of you a lifetime of love and friendship, health and happiness, partnership and more than either of you could ever wish for. Congratulations... we love you!