**BEST MAN SPEECH**

**FOR**

**JOHN MEEHAN**

**REVISED**

Hello everyone!!! Wow... after all that planning, wondering, replanning, more wondering.... and just plain surviving... here we are... love really does conquer all... and these two know that. Like the dedicated employees of the US Postal Service, neither near misses nor natural disasters could keep these two from walking down this aisle together as husband and wife. If I didn’t know better, I’d think my father was playing tricks on Frank... from (**look up**) way up **there**....but guess what? They made it!!! And we’re in this special Paradise, celebrating the most important and enduring things in life: love, family, and true, deep partnership.... every aspect of it. We’re here to honor the goodness that life provides... and having the privilege of witnessing Danielle and Frank “making it official” is just great. Every one of you is here for a reason.... each one of you share a special connection with Danielle and Frank, and thanks to those connections, I think we all know and appreciate that great friends are rare. What’s even more special is that sometimes, if we’re really **REALLY** lucky, those great friends are our partners, our sounding boards... our **brothers**.

Frank and I go back.... **WAY** back... like **1981** way back.... Yes. Thirty-six years is a long time for any friendship, but Frank and I were lucky enough to meet at basketball camp when we were young, impressionable kids. Camp was great, we got a lot out of it....and we learned early on that what Michael Jordan once said is true- “Talent wins games but teamwork and intelligence win championships.” We went on to be teammates in football for four years, and with each interaction... as each year passed, we realized that **LIFE** is the **REAL** sport. ... and we were “real sports...” from a very early age. I will never forget one of the earliest times that the two of us decided to go out in **STYLE**. We were about fourteen or fifteen, we got a summer job landscaping... my father tried to talk us out of it, but we were determined. We worked for a few weeks, saved our money and followed our urge to “explore.” We went down to some really divy hotel on the Jersey Shore. We got creative with making our fake ID’s, we “procured” a case of beer, and we headed off to one of the local clubs.... just a couple of “wild and crazy guys....” I remember there was a **GIGANTIC** bouncer at the front door.... somehow he let me in, but not Frank... **UM**.... we didn’t quite plan on **THAT** happening... but fortunately... well, not really... a fight broke out and **GIGANTOR** had to leave his post at the front door.... I signaled to Frank... he snuck in... We were back in action!!! That night our destiny was sealed... we were fascinated...this was probably the beginning of our team effort to find our place and “make our fortune”... in the “nightlife...” and it brought a whole new meaning to the name, **WILD WOOD**...” Hey... we were young!!! (**Wait for the laugh**). Frank and I have always made a great team in every situation, and it’s a privilege and an honor to stand up for him especially as his best man on this incredibly important occasion.

Over the years, fortunately for **US**, Frank has had his share of adventures.... unfortunately for **you**, we can’t quite discuss them in “polite company,” (**Wait for the laugh**) but trust me... **good times**. Let’s just say... to quote that respected bastion of good taste.... Dame Edna Everage (**Do you know who “she” is? It’s English comedian Barry Humphreys**) “My mother used to say that there are no strangers, only friends you haven’t met yet. She’s now in a maximum security twilight home in Australia” (**Wait for the laugh**).... **YES**. Frank has met some strange “**friends**.”

Because we’ve known each other from such a young age, we’ve been lucky enough to really know each other’s families as well. Frank always had a special bond with my father. I’m the youngest of nine kids and growing up, my father had always been such a natural father figure to so many; Frank was no exception. As my dad mentored him, our family bond grew stronger.... and I am proud to say that I, too, have a very special relationship with Frank’s parents, Mr. And Mrs Antico. (**If they are there, it would be nice to give a shout out and congratulate them- Do you ever call them by their first names? If you feel comfortable, use their names**) To \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, I want to congratulate you on the marriage of your son to the beautiful, fantastic Danielle.... it may have taken a while to be able to dance at Frank’s wedding.... I know.... I was **waiting** for this **too**... (**Wait for the laugh**), but we all know that the sweetest gifts are worth the wait.

In some ways I feel responsible for this moment.... right here, right now.... you see, way back when... 2004 to be exact, I interviewed a girl who turned out to be a great employee... and obviously a stellar partner and wife for Frank! Danielle proves the theory that friends... and bartenders...are therapists you can drink with.... and believe me, **WE’RE** the lucky ones! (**Wait for the laugh**). She’s the whole package... I guess I got it right when I offered her the job!!! She’s a fantastic mother of two great kids, Dante and Dylan. I’m so happy for all of them and the great relationship they all share, and I am also happy for us as our family expands to include Danielle and her kids.

Frank, at this point, I don’t think there is much left to be said. I’m proud to call you partner, I’m honored to call you brother, and I’m privileged to call you Godfather to our beautiful daughter, Sophia. (**Do you want to mention Sophia’s mother? If so, you can say**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and I are so happy for you and Danielle... Love is great, isn’t it???

... And now comes the part I **KNOW** you’ve all been waiting for... I **KNOW** this crowd.... (**Wait for the laugh**). I’d like to invite you all to raise a glass as I propose a toast....

James Naismith, the inventor of basketball said, “Be strong in body, clean in mind, lofty in ideals....” **WELLLLLLLL** two out of three ain’t bad!!! (**Wait for the laugh**). Here’s to a wonderful, joyous life together, filled with health and happiness, fun and partnership, lofty ideas and wild adventures! Congratulations! We love you!!