**ANNIVERSARY SPEECH**

**FOR**

**ANTHONY DANIELSKI**

Hello everyone and thank you all for being here and sharing this very special milestone. Without getting too corny, I have to quote a pretty famous song lyric and say, “Some people wait a lifetime for a moment like this....” Granted, I’m no Kelly Clarkson, someone who experienced amazing blessings from being on the first season of American Idol, but I have to say, tonight we get to celebrate two people who invested their love, spirit, and integrity in each other and in us... both me and my brother, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and clearly, we’re winners too!!! Tonight we celebrate a couple, my parents, Carole and Gary, who, for forty years, have shown the world just how “it’s done.” ...how to work hard, be devoted to your family, and still have time to love and appreciate each other. I can’t imagine two people more worthy of all of the great sentiments, acknowledgements, and memories filling this room. It’s an honor to celebrate these two, and to say, **Happy 40th Anniversary, Mom and Dad!!**

In looking back, it seems like the world was in a different place forty years ago when Carole (**use your mom’s maiden name**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and Gary Danielski met, fell in love, and decided to get married. Back then, times were simpler.... there were no cell phones or computers.... cars didn’t drive themselves.... yet.... there were less than seven hundred channels on TV.... but the authentic parts of life... love, devotion, hard work, and good, solid, dreams for the future were available to everyone. Carole and Gary knew that instinctively and decided to “ hitch their wagons” together for their journey into the future as husband and wife, and together they have shown the world what that goodness can yield. Dr. Seuss, no stranger to sharing his unique and imaginative thoughts, once said, “We are all a little weird and life’s a little weird, so when we find someone whose weirdness is compatible with ours, we join up with them and fall in mutual weirdness; and then we call it **love**.” ... well, that’s **ONE WAY** to describe the magic we’ve witnessed all these years!!!! (**Wait for the laugh**)... if everyone had the “secret sauce” that Mom and Dad have used to sweeten their lives and give back to others, this world would be a much better place!

This marriage has yielded some great results.... two fine sons... if I must say so myself, \_\_\_\_\_\_ great daughter-in-law **(If you are married, change to two great daughters-in-law**), four adorable grandchildren (**Do you want to name them?**), \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and of course, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and a strong and interesting community of friends, neighbors, and colleagues.

From my perspective, I won “**Parent Lotto**.” I want to thank my parents for their relentless ability to set an incredible example for me... for us... and for everyone. Their ethics and integrity... their commitment to hard work and their unwavering devotion set the tone that built our foundations. I am always inspired by Mom and Dad’s work ethic.... Mom worked her way up through the bank to become a branch manager, and before his retirement, Dad showed us just what it means to bring commitment and common sense to all that we do. Their examples have inspired me throughout my life. I have such great memories of Dad bringing that dedication to coaching (**Name your brother**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and me through our baseball years as kids, and through my service in the Army and my deployments in Iraq, it was their endless support and wisdom that got me through. No matter where I was in the world.... in life... in the military... there love for each other and for me was always there.... driving, inspiring, keeping me going. I only hope that one day I will be blessed to be half the parents they were to me. Oh... I also have to say that while Dad showed his abilities pursuing his career in “facilities” at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Hospital, since he’s moved on to the next phase of his career, he has **REALLY** demonstrated his dedication... to retirement!!! (**Wait for the laugh**).

Mom and Dad, I hope you were surprised tonight but I hope you’re **NOT** surprised by the love you’ve inspired in all of us. I also know that I don’t have to remind you that hard work pays off and wishes **DO** come true. A little birdie told me so.... Mom, I doubt you’ll remember this, but that little birdie also told me that about two years ago, you took a quiz on Facebook. I don’t know your answers, but I **DO** know the “Magic Ball” told you that “You will be surprised with a party.” (**If you want, I have the screen shot of this**). I hope this evening has been all you two might have ever dreamed of! Keep inspiring us with your dreams!!

Tonight also signifies the beginning... of the next phase of your lives together. May each day be filled with more of everything.... more health... more happiness... more partnership... more wisdom.... more joy.... and more celebrations.... Congratulations! We love you!!