**WEDDING SPEECH**

**FOR**

**DIANNE WEST**

Hello everyone!!! Just in case any of you don’t know, I am Dianne, and I’m the mother of the groom.... that would be Blaine.... in case anyone else might not know **THAT** ...

 (**Wait for the laugh**). I’ve waited a lifetime for “a moment like this” and here it is. It’s been a real joy to be Blaine’s mother for about twenty odd years.... of course he’s now (**give his actual age**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.... there were some years in the middle.... those were kind of a blur... (**Wait for the laugh**). But if you know me.... and you know Blaine..... there’s one thing for sure that you’ve noticed... we believe in laughter... lots of it. Blaine grew up in a comedic family.... now if he only had a personality.... (**Wait for the laugh**).

When Blaine and I discussed the idea of me speaking tonight, I promised him I’d keep my outburst ... I mean comments.... short... but then again, I am also the person... the **MOTHER** who taught him about Santa Claus and the Easter Bunny....!! What was that line from that Tom Hanks movie???? Oh. **YEAH**... **I’M the CAPTAIN NOW**!!! Just try and pry this mike out of my hands!!! (**Wait for the laugh**).... This is gonna be **FUN**!!!

Ah Blaine... my very special, one-in-a-million son... laughter has always been our Prozac and even with all of the challenges and trials he faced in his young life, my son always managed to inspire smiles and laughter.... he too, was able to “turn the world on” with his smile and jokes... and every “knock knock” joke and big word he said landed with the precision of a pro.... he was a born star.... he was also born and remained an only child... never asked for a sibling... he loved the attention.... he came alive in the spotlight.... **HMMMM** come to think of it... I wonder if those two revelations are related?!?!?! (**Wait for the laugh**) .... But then again.... the way Blaine eats... OMIGOD.... That **ALONE** can take the house down!!!

Blaine, you are part of a distinguished, unique, and special family. Thank goodness that along with that sense of humor and love of making all of us laugh, you also inherited the DNA of my father, your grandpa, Big Al, Mr. America, who became an Iron Man later in life. Let’s just say that with your timing, it’s a big help to have his strength and speed... just in case the crowd turns... and this one better not turn on me!! (**Wait for the laugh**).... I remember when I learned that Blaine had unique and individual talents... that was when Frank Gerardo came over with a set of golf clubs... then there was that winning in baseball... then the Golden Gloves... then the shooting competitions.... and fishing... and hunting... wow... come to think of it... my son is REALLY special!!!

I’ve been your proud, adoring, admiring mother for your entire .... wellll for **MOST** of your life (**Wait for the laugh**).... even when you traveled the world.... even when you **NEVER** bothered to pick up your phone... **WHAT**?!?! You didn’t want to talk to **ME**???? How could that **POSSIBLY BE**???? But there WERE those duck calls... (**Wait for the laugh**)....and I’ve always wondered, “What kind of young woman would Blaine bring home to be his wife? Well...that question was very happily answered when Mary stepped into your... and **OUR** lives.... **SON**, ya did **GOOD**.... Where do I begin? There’s so much about the two of you that proves the strength of your connection and love... Take the duck call... fake spiders on hooks.... gold balls on the couch.... hmmmm.... don’t leave a mess!!! (**Wait for the laugh**). ... Drag racing down the street in the Mercedes... and that **CAMOUFLAGE**... I remember when Mary first came to Florida... they went hunting and she dressed in camouflage...oh, the twinkle in her eye... fortunately for the animals, they don’t do that anymore... Blaine and Mary looked even **MORE** alike in camo... those poor animals got confused... (**Wait for the laugh**). But Blaine’s changed... he started wearing REAL clothes now... safe.... then freezer... then fishing stuff now and arrow... closets full of camo (**I didn’t know what this means**). Yes... these two have a special place in their hearts for camo.... thank goodness there’s none listed on their gift registry.... or **IS THERE** ??? (**Wait for the laugh**).

And now Blaine, you’re a married man... it’s time to bequeath you the store keys and the credit cards (**Does this fit here?**). It’s time for me to officially welcome Mary to our family with open arms. I am so happy to have a new daughter....and just a little advice for you... just remember ... “Happy wife, Happy life (**You had written, “happy wife, happy wife” which would you prefer?**).

I’d like for the both of you to keep this last thought close to you at all times:

Dear Blaine and Mary

Your beautiful eyes... use them to see the good in you both. Your hearts... may you find ways to make them always beat faster and to understand them to tell you who to keep close.    Your smiles... use them often with each other.  Find laughter.  Your souls... may they float always  in your life’s journey together.  You may not always like what you see, but always like who you are.   As you turn the page into your lives together may you always look ahead.  Always say I love you... Congratulations.... and **WE** love **YOU**!! Thank you!!