**WEDDING SPEECH**

**FOR**

**MICHAEL ORLANDO**

Hello everyone! As Brian’s very proud father, I know I also speak for my wife, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ when I thank all of you for being here and for sharing our family’s happiness on this very special occasion. (**Do you want to congratulate Jessica’s parents? If so...** ) I’d like to congratulate Jessica’s parents, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ on our children’s marriage, and Jessica, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and I are thrilled to welcome you to our family!!! We look forward to sharing many happy and meaningful memories with all of you.....

Oh. Wait.... that is.... if Brian **remembers**.... I have to say that I love my son, I admire his abilities and talents, he’s as smart as the Day is long...and his interests and enthusiasm for life is an inspiration..... now... if only he would **remember** where he placed his keys.... (**Wait for the laugh**). Herman Melville once said that “meditation and water are wedded forever.” **HMMMM**... Brian **LOVES** swimming, he **has** been known to be a great water polo player, and he certainly **DOES** think a lot... (**Wait for the laugh**).

Ever since Brian was born, he’s been a great baby, a super kid, an enthusiastic youngster, a genuine and caring friend, and now an ardent, devoted, loving partner and husband. He’s always done everything right... or at least it seemed so in my eyes. Brian and his brother Eric grew up in San José and they really participated in all life had and has to offer. They were both excellent students and had tons of friends, I don’t know if I’ve ever verbalized this, but this seems as good of a place and time as any..... **How did these guys turn out so good**??? (**Wait for the laugh).** And while we’re at it, pondering life and all, I’d like to take a moment to apologize to the San José Police Department.... for never having a “professional” reason to meet you “in the line of duty”... I guess my sons were **THAT** good... (**Wait for the laugh**). No complaints... **NOTHING** to see here!!

About five years ago, Brian met Jessica, and life, as we knew it, would change forever. As most of you know, both graduated from San José State University, and as Jessica pursued her career in nursing, and Brian followed his instincts in design engineering, there were times when distance could have become an issue, but when something, especially a strong, meaningful relationship is meant to be, and when two people are **genuine** partners, logistics have a way of working themselves out. Their commitment and care for one another has been clear, and when Jessica had a professional opportunity to move to Seattle, Brian found his way there too.

Shared interests are key in a successful relationship and these two demonstrate to all of us just what that means. Whether it’s skiing or fishing, or camping at just about any site they can find, Brian and Jessica know that a life shared is a rich and happy one... (**If you want, you can add**) and as soon as Jessica places homing devices on each bit of property that Brian **MIGHT** lose, and then finds and downloads that “Find my husband” app...or just “**microchips HIM**” they’ll be all good to go!! (**Wait for the laugh**)

Brian, I hope you know I’m just teasing you today...eh... you’ll probably forget what I said (**Wait for the laugh**), but there’s one thing, the **MOST IMPORTANT** thing I want you to keep with you **ALWAYS**. Being your father has been one of the great accomplishments of my life. Having you as my son is one of the greatest gifts. You make a genuine and positive difference in every life you touch and your ability and ease with people is an inspiration. I don’t think there is anyone in this room tonight who would dispute that. Alfred Lord Tennyson taught us, “I am part of all that I have met.” When it comes to your impact on your family, friends, and the world around you, this is a very good thing indeed. You’ve shown all of us repeatedly that connection is key... I remember when you formed a business association while you were still in school... just to maintain that bond with people ... you also prove time and again that distance is just a state of mind. Even though you have friends from all over the place, you invest in each one of them... your caring transcends time and space. It’s wonderful to see so many familiar faces with us tonight. And now with Jessica by your side, your combined joy and the impression left on all of us is indelible. Jessica, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and I are so happy that you’re now a part of our family... your strength and courage exemplifies the ultimate in what we could have wished for in a wife for Brian, and the way you care for one another.... well, it’s just great.

I’d like to invite all of you to raise a glass as I propose a toast:

Here’s to Jessica and Brian.... may you have more health, happiness, and partnership than you might ever wish for... (**Name 3 elements of what they love... example**) May the river trout be abundant... may all the trails yield exciting new discoveries, and may the campfire always be warm and inviting.... forever. Congratulations!!! We love you... oh. And Brian??? Just **one more thing**...

Your keys are on the table!!!! (**Wait for the laugh**).