**WEDDING SPEECH**

**FOR**

**PETER HASSELBACH**

Hello everyone and on behalf of my wife, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, I want to thank all of you for being here to share in our joy as we witness the marriage Brittany and Kristopher. Their happiness is reflected in all of the good wishes so abundantly present, and I can’t think of two finer young people to celebrate on this beautiful day. (**If any guests have traveled a distance, you can add**) To those of you that have traveled from far and wide to be here, we would like to extend an additional acknowledgement. We appreciate the effort all of you have made to be here, but to to those of you that have literally “gone the distance,” thank you!!! Thank you for braving the elements.... and by that I mean **traffic**.... to be here with us!!! (**Name your wife and acknowledge Brittany’s parents if appropriate**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and I would like to extend special appreciation to Brittany’s parents, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Thank you both for organizing such a lovely wedding for these two wonderful people. We are so happy to welcome Brittany to our family and we look forward to sharing many happy occasions and making many memories with you as well. Today really is the beginning of a new era of extended family and shared blessings.

Kristopher, there is an ancient expression that tells us, “When you teach your son, you teach your son’s son.” I look at you today, about to begin one of greatest journeys of your life, and I am reminded of the lessons I’ve learned in **my** life... from my father and his father, and his father before that. As parents, we are first and foremost children, and as sons who become fathers and, if we are blessed, grandfathers... and more, we realize that the people closest to us reflect our own lives, goals, hopes, dreams, and even flaws. I also realize that, as a son, it was my “job” to learn. As a father, it has been and always will be, my mission to teach, but also my privilege to learn from my children. (**I did some research and saw that you have another son, Karl. I think it would be nice to mention him**). Your mother and I have been twice blessed, with both your brother, Karl, and you, and every day, we continue to witness the grace, respect, resilience, and compassion you bring to everything you do. If, hopefully, that is a reflection of what your mother and I have done in raising you, we are both proud and humbled.

Ever since you were a young boy, we saw a quality... a manner... a way of being that was reflected in everything you attempted, achieved, and mastered. You were a special child and have grown to be a true and fine gentleman. Your accomplishments throughout your life, whether academically, professionally, or developmentally, have betrayed you, in a manner of speaking, because each undertaking has revealed your respect for all things that count in life, and whether it’s the kindness you liberally demonstrate to animals as well as people, your fascination with nature and being “one with the earth.... we believe you are unique. While most kids were content to become a

Boy Scout to have a well rounded foundation, you saw the value in becoming an Eagle Scout. Throughout your life you’ve sought out, tackled, and accomplished goals with the understanding and resilience that showed your maturity and passion for life. When you went hiking in the Swiss Alps, I think you understood that each step you took was a metaphor for life, and provided you with a road map of how to approach and conquer whatever obstacles may come on your own personal path....

And then, Kris, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ years ago, you met Brittany. Of course your mother and I knew she had to be special to warrant the love and respect you clearly felt and feel for her, and we love how we see that bond grow stronger every day. Brittany, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and I want to welcome you to our family. Thank you for loving and appreciating our son. (**If you want to make a little joke you can say**) ... and although \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and I don’t have too much... or **ANY** experience with having a daughter, we could not have wished for one better, finer, or sweeter than you... welcome to our family!!

To paraphrase Victor Hugo, “Son, brother, husband, father, friend. There is room in the heart for all the affections, as there is room in the sky for all the stars.” Kristopher, today you add “husband” as the newest definition of who you are.

**(If you want to propose a toast you can say the following. If not, eliminate the toast proposal wording**)

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

To Brittany and Kristopher, may your life be filled with love and respect, thrilling adventure, happiness, good health and more than the two of you have ever or could ever hope for. We wish you all the best... We love you! Congratulations and thank you all!