**WEDDING SPEECH**

**FOR**

**LEONARDO BAYRAN**

Hello everyone!! This is such a special occasion and (**Name your wife if appropriate**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and I are thrilled to share our joy with you. (**If there is anyone special that is attending that may have traveled far, you can acknowledge them here**). This beautiful scenery is a wonderful place in which to witness our daughter join hands and marry her now husband Chad (**According to my research, he is called Chad, but adjust accordingly**) and although it is a genuine thrill to be with each one of you, I would like to acknowledge some people who have traveled from far and wide to be here and celebrate this marriage. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, I know I speak for LesleyAnn as well as her mother and Chad when I say that we are so happy that you’ve joined us today. It’s a blessing to share these moments with people who mean so much to us. (**Is it appropriate to congratulate Chad’s parents? If so, you can do that here**). (**Name your wife**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and I would also like to extend our most heartfelt congratulations to Chad’s family (**Name mother, father, and any siblings**), \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and of course, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. It’s an honor to welcome Chad into **our** family as our son and we look forward to many more happy occasions for our mutual, extended families!!

I will **never** forget the moment back in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ when our baby was born. The doctor brought her to us for the first time and said, “She is beautiful,” and my heart has not been the same since. Hearing those words for the first time... hearing the doctor use that pronoun “**she**”... knowing that we now had a daughter... changed my life forever. Ever since that first word, I have been my daughter’s biggest fan, fiercest protector, most enthusiastic promoter, and of course, as her father, her greatest “softie...” So much has been said about fathers and daughters, and I will tell you this much... they’re all **TRUE**!!!! (**Wait for the laugh**). Someone... or many people... have said, “A daughter may outgrow your lap but she will never outgrow your heart... “ That’s so **TRUE**!! Others have said, “No one in this world can love a girl more than her father...” Also true.... although I have to say, Chad, I do admire and commend you for understanding, loving and appreciating our daughter!! (**Wait for the laugh**)... and LesleyAnn, even when I couldn’t be around physically... even when I was deployed for six months as a (**Name the rank**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in the United States Navy, with the help and of your mother, I was with you in spirit, with love, watching over you... and as the author, Harper Lee has written, “She did not stand alone, but what stood behind her, the most potent moral force in her life, was the love of her father.”

LesleyAnn, from that very first minute I heard those words, and especially, “**SHE**,” I have been proud of you. And then the hopes and dreams began, and I must say, you’ve outdone even the greatest, wildest imagination your mother and I might have pictured for your future... while you were born in Hawaii, of course, being in the US Navy, we moved around a bit. With each move, you rose to the challenge and your personality and spirit blossomed.... from Hawaii to Washington DC... studying at George Washington University and graduating with a degree in computer science... to moving to Los Angeles and thriving on the energy of that area, you inspire us all. I may be a little biased, but I think we would all agree that you’re beautiful, intelligent, caring, enthusiastic, spirited, accomplished, and professional, and now you’re **MARRIED**! Where did the time go???

Chad, in the relatively short time we’ve known you, we are so happy that you are now part of our lives and our family. While you were born and raised out here in California, we won’t hold that against you!! (**Wait for the laugh**)... of course I’m kidding. I liked you from the first time I met you and I want you to know that I really appreciated the moment you came to me and asked for my permission to marry our daughter. That was honorable, respectful, and it really showed me how much you love LesleyAnn. Once again, welcome to the family!!

LesleyAnn, I thank God every day for having the privilege and opportunity to be your father, and although I may not have said so every day of your life, we have occasions like your wedding that bring out the love and acknowledgement we all feel as a reflection of the love that you and Chad have for each other.

(**If you want to propose a toast, you can say the following... if no toast, just omit the words referring to the toast**).

Ladies and gentlemen, I would like to invite you to raise a glass as I propose a toast:

To LesleyAnn and Chad.... Here’s to all that you share and to your wonderful future as husband and wife. May you have more love, health, happiness, partnership, and true connection than you might ever wish for.... Congratulations!! We love you!! Thank you all!!