**BEST MAN SPEECH**

**FOR**

**JAMES LONGO**

Hello everyone! It’s great to be here and it’s a real honor to be best man as I “**stand up**” for a really “stand up” kind of guy, My brother Philip (**Is he your brother? Instructions did not say. If he is not, please adjust relationship wording**). Actually, come to think of it, he doesn’t stand up **that much**.... not when he’s kayaking... which is often... not usually when he’s fishing... and he **DEFINITELY** wasn’t standing up when he got down on one knee to propose to Emily... but you get the point... he’s a great guy and I know I speak for everyone here when I say we are all very happy for this bride and groom.. I’d like to welcome Emily to the family and I know we all look forward to sharing lots of great times together making memories as a newly extended family. (**Do you want to congratulate Emily’s parents? If so, you can say**) To Emily’s parents, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ , Congratulations!!! Now you have a new addition to your family!!! (**Do you want to say**) Let’s hope he behaves himself!!

Well, Philip, here we are, and here you are, all dressed up and looking so handsome, marrying the young woman of your dreams. What began as a “click” five years ago... or was it a swipe??? (**Wait for the laugh**) has grown into the real deal. If anyone had been wondering if spending a lot of time online has its benefits... well, here we are!!! It worked for these two!! And I know all of us that care for Emily and Philip couldn’t be happier.

Philip, it’s been said that people with shared interests and a common bond create a strong foundation on which love can bloom.... the two of you, in your own unique ways, come together with your love of nature, art, animals, and each other. Albert Einstein said, “Look deep into nature and then you will understand everything better.” Philip, I think you already figured that out... so.... now get this logic... if you knew that, and Einstein said that.... and Einstein is considered a great genius.... guess what **THAT** makes **YOU**??? I’m gonna say a “genius by association!” Deep down inside, you know that being surrounded by nature... by open, blue skies... majestic trees... the sound of crows cawing **incessantly**... well, okay... maybe not that last one (**Wait for the laugh**) is somehow very good for the soul... and to have a partner... a best friend.... your **WIFE**.... to share that with... I don’t think life gets any better.

It’s so clear to anyone that meets either of you that you both love life, appreciate and acknowledge your blessings, and definitely look forward to spending a long, happy, interesting, nature filled life together. It’s been said that nature is our greatest teacher.... well, Philip, maybe your **SECOND** greatest teacher.... I have a feeling you’re going to learn **A LOT** from Emily!!! And Emily... I know you’re bright, observant, and open to accepting all that Philip can teach you too.

Knowing how the two of you love and appreciate art, I want to share this thought with you. The artist, Marc Chagall said, “If I create from the heart, nearly everything works. If from the head, almost nothing.” When I thought about that statement, it really hit me.... and that marriage, like art, should be created from the heart. Remember that great art is never really finished... it can go on... blend into other shapes and strokes... Treat each other as though you were looking at a painting you never saw... look at each other with fresh eyes, open minds, and the willingness to get to really know and understand each other more and more as time goes by. A wise man once said, “A happy marriage is a long conversation which always seems too short.” We all know this is true for the two of you and now that you’re married, that long and winding conversation has officially begun!... and it’s portable!!! It travels wherever you two are... it’s waterproof in the kayak... it’s not afraid of heights in the mountains... it loves good ground cover in the forest! I know the two of you get it!!!

In closing, I want to mention something else to the two of you. Ed Sheehan did a duet with Andrea Bocelli and it’s probably the most romantic thing ever recorded. I think the lyrics are meaningful to anyone that has ever loved, so this would be the place to share this!!!

“I found a love for me

Darling just dive right in

And follow my lead

I found a girl beautiful and sweet

I never knew you were the someone waiting for me... “

Ladies and gentlemen, I’d like to ask you to raise a glass as I propose a toast:

To Emily and Philip, May the two of you share the best days to come... and may you both have more than anything you might wish for... love, health, happiness, friendship, nature, art, and endless, fascinating conversation... Here’s to **YOU**!!! Congratulations!! We love you!! Thank you all