**WEDDING SPEECH**

**FOR**

**ANDREW RUPP**

(**Note: I saw your comment that you don’t really “deliver funny,” but I wrote in some “playful” things that I hope you will consider... Thanks, Helene**).

Hello everyone!! My wife Kathy and I want to thank all of you for being here for this very special moment. We are thrilled that Elizabeth met and has married such a fine young man as Kyle and it is our pleasure to share our joy with you. (**Acknowledge Kyle’s parents and any siblings here**) Kathy and I would also like to congratulate Kyle’s parents, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ as well as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. We welcome you to our newly extended and blended family and we Rupp’s look forward to sharing many happy moments with the Goetz’s!!

It’s not **every day** that a proud, joyful father gets to stand up in front of a large group of people to speak and reminisce about his “pride and joy” ... or at least **ONE** of them.... (**Do you want to mention your son? If so, say**) Hi \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_... and for **that** I am **eternally grateful**... (**Wait for the laugh**)... of course when a man has been blessed with a beautiful, kind, popular and talented daughter, he realizes that his “luck” will run out...most likely sooner than later.... **ESPECIALLY** when that daughter meets the love of her life, shares the wonderful news that she has become engaged.... and then drops the “**EDICT**.” Actually **TWO**... **EDICT NUMBER 1**... Walk her down the aisle, and **EDICT NUMBER 2**... Deliver the Father of the Bride Speech... My response??? Well, **ONE** of them I would do lovingly, proudly, and happily, and the other... the Father of the Bride Speech.. is that **REALLY** a **THING**? (**Wait for the laugh**)... (**If you think it might be cute, take out a large carton, like a banker’s box, seemingly filled with papers... or tape a bunch of papers and pull out a really long “script” and say**) Elizabeth, I’m not the “speech giving” kind of father, but since you asked, I’ve got some **THINGS** to say.... (**and wait for the laugh**)

I will **NEVER** forget that moment twenty-five years ago...Elizabeth, your entry into this world was **EPIC**... especially since we almost didn’t make it to the hospital in time... you were as determined then as you are today, but somehow, even as a “pre-newborn,” your organizational skills prevailed and you realized there was wisdom to be found in waiting... just long enough to enter this world in a clean, safe, and sterilized environment.... and in not having to be named after the highway patrolman that would have delivered you on the side of Route \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (**Name a popular highway in the area and wait for the laugh**)... every single day after that has been a wonderful blessing... to have the privilege to be your father means so much to me, and it always has. You entered this world with **purpose** and you haven’t slowed down since.

There is a saying I’d like to paraphrase that reminds us, “Give me the child when she is five years old, and I will show you the woman...” Well folks, we saw glimpses of the talented, accomplished young woman that Elizabeth would become **WAAAYYYYYYY** earlier than that. We’ve watched our daughter grow into a determined, decisive individual, and it is more than a suspicion that she has received all of her greatest traits from her mother... As a child, Elizabeth showed us, and her friends and classmates, just what she wanted... she demonstrates that she knows her mind, focuses on her goals, and achieves them. Starting in school, with her flute, golf team or soccer, she always was prepared and determined.  I will never forget those days...she chose to play high school soccer after never having played before.    And she chose to be   
the **goalie**!  And boy!! Was she good at it!!! ... So determined to defend the goal.     I think she became goalie because she did not like to run **AND** because she was tired of me yelling at her repeatedly to “***Run like the wind!!!***” like I did over and over again in little league softball.   She’s a great cook and showed us all her skills, even at a young age.  Sometimes I wonder if all of this might be a bit daunting for Kyle, but then again, he’s definitely well fed!! (**Wait for the laugh**). Elizabeth’s organizational passion is notable... **infamous**??? After all, with her direction to have assigned seating for our family dinners.... I mean... there were just **FOUR** of us most times!!! My chair is **MY** chair!! (**Wait for the laugh**)... Believe me, everyone, when I tell you that Elizabeth was **BORN** to plan **EVERY. LAST. DETAIL**. of this wedding... and she did it like a **BOSS**!!

Elizabeth is a proud Jayhawk, knowing the moment she set foot on the campus that Lawrence was her home for her college education, just as Kyle is a proud Wildcat.  I must confess that I am a little disappointed that the personalized Jayhawk plate didn’t go on the new car, but these two have learned one of the secrets to a happy marriage... it’s all about compromise, but I think at least half of you would agree that some things are non-negotiable... like team representation….and license plates..

And speaking of Kyle... He is a lucky young man to win her heart and Elizabeth is a lucky young woman to meet Kyle.  In the time Kathy and I have come to know him, we are so happy to have her find him and have him as our son-in law.  Kyle, we welcome you to our family as our son, and we look forward to being there for the two of you, as you grow and build a wonderful life together.

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

To Elizabeth and Kyle, beyond the Jayhawks... above the Wildcats... you two are the newest and greatest team we know and admire. Here’s to a life filled with love and spirit, good health and humor, friends, family, respect, prosperity, and more than you might ever wish for, Congratulations... we love you!!

Thank you all!!