**WEDDING SPEECH**

**FOR**

**JOE MYSZA**

**SPEECH 1: Rehearsal Dinner:**

Hello everyone and welcome to Sweden... or, as is said in the native tongue, Välkommen!!! I know I speak for Margareta when I say that it is truly a joy to share this wonderful occasion with all of you, especially here in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. I want to take a moment to thank our very gracious hosts, Margareta’s sister, Brigitta, her husband, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and their son, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, for their hospitality in welcoming us so warmly. In our wildest imaginations, while thinking how in Heaven’s name, this moment could get even more special than it already is, here we are, in this beautiful setting, celebrating, family, tradition, legacy, and love.

While the Danish have the word, “hygge,” I believe the native word in this county might be, “mysig...” homy, cozy, elegant, welcoming... a context within which to celebrate heritage, connection, and the good life. It is such a gift to have the opportunity to be here, together and to share the joy emanating from Tyler and Derek.

I have been blessed, throughout my life, to be a “citizen of the world.” Having the opportunity to travel, learn of other cultures, share adventures and break bread both in the United States and here, in Europe, and particularly in our “second home” of Sweden, is really a rare opportunity ... one that allows us to realize how truly connected we all are, and how intimate the world can be. Knowing that our son has found his life partner in Tyler, and seeing the enthusiasm that emanates from both of them... for each other, for life, and for the future, is heartwarming and reaffirming, and tonight, we have the chance to share that special connection with all of you.

I want to welcome Tyler to our family... Tyler, you’re the daughter we never had... yet always wished for, and we also want to congratulate and welcome Tyler’s parents, Ty (**?** **Is this correct?**) and Liz, and their spouses, Andrea and George (**I wanted to emphasize Tyler’s mother and father... does this work for you**?). Margareta and I look forward to sharing many memories with our newly extended, **international** family.

Margareta and I learned a long time ago that distance is a state of mind.... the world is our home, and closeness is held in the heart and the spirit.... but it’s also great to reunite in person!! We want to acknowledge all of you for taking the time to travel from far and wide, to be here to witness this very special time!!

Thank you all!!

**SPEECH 2: WEDDING**

Hello everyone!!! On behalf of Derek’s mother, Margareta, we both want to thank all of you for sharing this joyous occasion with us. While we know that weddings are usually a fun and heartwarming reason to bring people together, we are particularly honored and moved that so many of you, from so many diverse parts of the world, made the effort to be here, to visit this beautiful country, and to participate in these very special festivities.

With guests from locations far and wide... places like Austria, the UK, Okinawa.... **JACKSONVILLE**!!! Let’s hear it for Jacksonville!!! ... we have some very interesting representation... and that says **A LOT**.... it shows how small the world truly is... it tells us that in spite of the effort and energy that it takes to travel these days, you chose to be here... and it shows just how much Tyler and Derek mean to you, and for that we are all so thankful!!

Marriage signifies union... a coming together of two people, whole on their own... stronger, more aware, more loving, patient, and tolerant together. Ever since Derek was a young boy, his mother and I did whatever we could to instill the proper mix of values, integrity, and compassion into Derek. He has been blessed to see and learn of as much of the world as he has been eager to learn, and he’s lived and studied in Europe and England. Derek has also been blessed with intelligence, curiosity, and consideration... fortunately, his mother “raised him right...” and being with Tyler just amplifies his greatest points, and for that, we are truly thankful.

Of course, as a father, I always did what I could to instill guidance and .... what I thought was inspiration... of the messages I shared, one of the most important I felt compelled to impart was, “Find your best friend...” And wouldn’t you **JUST KNOW IT**???? He **listened**!!! (**Wait for the laugh**). (**Do you want to add...**) of course, in **OUR** minds... we never would have imagined a car accident and a trip to Oslo, but, **HEY**... **silver linings**!! (**And wait for the laugh**). Tyler, Margareta and I are so happy to officially welcome you to our family and we would like to congratulate and welcome your mother, Liz, and your father, Ty, and their spouses, George and Andrea.... to our growing family as well..

Derek, it’s been said that the journey of a lifetime begins with a single step. You and Tyler have both shown your passion and enthusiasm when it comes to exploring the world... Today, the two of you took a giant step into the rest of your lives. May the road you now travel together... officially... be the most exciting, fulfilling journey....may it take you to even more diverse and fascinating places, and may it be filled with the greatest of lessons... of discovery... prosperity and partnership, health and happiness.

I would like to invite all of you to raise a glass as I propose a toast.... To Tyler and Derek.... Congratulations... and Bon Voyage!!! We wish you safe travels wherever your path may lead... We love you!!! Thank you all!!