**WEDDING SPEECH**

**FOR**

**RODNEY WESTRUM**

Hello everyone!!! It’s so great to see all of you, joining us and sharing in our joy.... (**Name your wife)** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and I are absolutely thrilled to welcome Katie to our family and that we can finally.... officially call her our daughter. (**Congratulate Katie’s parents and any siblings she has**). We would also like to take a moment to congratulate Katie’s parents \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. It’s wonderful when people come together, sharing happy occasions, reaffirming all that is good in life.... mainly family, friends and connections.... and speaking of connections, since our family now “represents” from the east coast, I would like to acknowledge all of you that have taken the time and made the effort to travel from far and near to be here.... it’s reassuring to know that Katie and Grant.... and Brody... have such an enthusiastic and widespread cheering section!!!

(**Do you have other children? Perhaps mention them here**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and I have been blessed to wonderful children. Grant and his \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ kept us on our toes as young parents. We had our moments, but I think it’s clear that we all learned about what it truly means to be a family... When he was younger, Grant was an active and enthusiastic hockey player.... so he knew how to move.... and to wield a stick.... so we, as parents, learned to “weave and bob” as it were.... **metaphorically**... (**Wait for the laugh**).... He also loved his video games.... boy... was he into those.... while some might have thought he was close to obsessed, in hindsight, let’s say he demonstrated his ability to “focus...” He developed great motor skills from both activities and his ability to concentrate seems to have helped him in the professional arena too!!! We may not have thought that when he was a kid, but **HEY**! It all worked out!!!

Maybe I am biased, but it always seemed to me that whatever Grant chose to do, he did... and does it well.... he played hard as a kid.... he studied and got through school.... and he has proven himself professionally.... it’s no wonder that when a bright, attractive, mutually interesting sales person contacted him, there was chemistry... I mean.... what are the odds??? We all know how many people we meet through the course of a day... a month... a year..... and once again... what are the odds that two people just... **wink**... doing their respective jobs.... **wink**... would be perceptive enough to see and feel the signs.... test the waters... and make the move??? Thank goodness these two were both on top of their games, because here we are!!!! Katie... I’d like to say that I think it’s so **cool** that you’ve found your soulmate in our son and made the move... from sunny Florida.... to Minnesota... I’d **LIKE** to say it’s cool, but I don’t want to rub it in!!!! (**Wait for the laugh**). Take comfort in knowing that you now **REALLY** have your **LOVE** to keep you warm.... (**If you want you can add**) and don’t forget.... Mall of America!!! (**Wait for the laugh**).

Traditionally, this is the part where the father dispenses lifelong wisdom on the newly minted, happy couple.... and believe me... I searched my soul for **this**... As I was thinking about what I might say tonight, and thinking of the things that meant so much to Grant throughout his life... I had a brainstorm... and asked myself... What does hockey teach us about life??? Fortunately, Google helped in my quest.... so Katie... Grant... here’s some marriage wisdom by way of hockey.... first and foremost.... it all starts with **commitment**... so far so good!!! You two are clearly committed to one another.... and to Brody... and that’s the foundation of a healthy, loving relationship. In marriage, as in hockey, commitment means giving your word and keeping it, operating with integrity, and finding the ways... and means to be on top of your game, no matter what. Marriage... and hockey, both take **focus**... work smart.... play to your strengths... ask for help... be there for the **team**...and encourage living a **healthy lifestyle**... staying in condition... mentally, physically, emotionally....and of course, you learn that the team... the **FAMILY**... is everything. You both already know this.... but keep it in mind... have each other’s back.... maintain a sense of humor.... keep the lines of communication open at all times.... and if all else fails.... make sure the helmet and padding is nearby!!! (**Wait for the laugh).**

I don’t have to tell either of you...or for that matter, anyone in this room, that our world is changing rapidly.... I know that you both love tech, but it’s also important to remember and respect the beauty of what keeps us human and **humane**.... love, honor, compassion, understanding.... none of which can be accessed on a keyboard.... **YET**.... as your father, my money is on both of you to build a beautiful, happy life with Brody.... and I know everyone here is rooting for the three of you!!!!

I’d like to invite all of you to raise a glass as I propose a toast....

To Katie and Grant.... here’s to a lifetime filled with love, health, happiness, success, and more than you might ever wish for... Congratulations!!! We love you!!! Thank you!!