**WEDDING SPEECH**

**FOR**

**DIN CUARESMA**

Hello and thank you for sharing this joyous occasion with all of us. Today, we celebrate the wedding of two wonderful young people and I personally am doubly thrilled and honored... Derrick is not only a great young man, a handsome, groom, a dedicated professional and devoted friend to so many of you, he is also my son and a **great friend** to me... Yes... our family has **A LOT** to celebrate today. (**If appropriate, mention your wife here**). \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and I would like to officially welcome Christina to our “Cuaresma Clan!!” We would like to congratulate the Vo family for sharing our joy and for being a part of this great, new, lively and enthusiastic extended family!!! We can’t wait to see all of the adventures and occasions that the future holds and most importantly, we are so happy to experience **ALL OF IT**... as **FAMILY**.

Today, we see Derrick as a handsome, beaming groom.... someone who has just added the title of “husband” to his long list of achievements, talents, and accomplishments. We who know him best know that there are so many words we can use to describe this terrific young man... what’s **REALLY** great is that some of those descriptions **can even be used in PUBLIC**!!! In **MIXED COMPANY**!!! (**Wait for the laugh**). All jokes aside, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ I think I must have done **SOMETHING** right... because what’s the **GREATEST** part of all of this??? He takes after me!!! (**Wait for the laugh**).

A very wise man once said that “The best way of training the young is to train yourself at the same time; not to scold them, but to be seen never doing that of which you would scold them.” To that end, Derrick, I have to say that you and (**name Derrick’s sisters and brothers**), \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ all did a **TREMENDOUS** job of training me... and your mother!!! (**Wait for the laugh**). And while each one of our kids had their own areas of “expertise,” from a “parent training” point of view, from Derrick we ... and especially I, learned so much... while I tried to teach Derrick how to be a good son, he was really teaching me... first hand, how to be a good, understanding father... I hope I passed his training course!!! He grew up to be an obedient, respectful, affectionate, funny, young man, filled with faith and ready to conquer the world!!! Of course, there were times he may have missed the mark.... just a little... but we who know him... who were there with him, who **CARRIED HIM** .... **LITERALLY**, when he couldn’t carry himself... know his true spirit... his essence... his love of life.... and of course, his love of Christina.

And speaking of Christina, legend has it that “every pot has its cover.” Every sock hopefully has its match, and everyone has their “person.” I think it’s clear to all of us that Derrick and Christina both found their own, forever person in each other, and they were blessed to find it while they were and are young, open minded, and ready, willing and able to laugh, grow, and love, together. Whether you know them as a friend or family member, professional colleague or neighbor, you have witnessed how these two just mesh... so naturally. They love doing things together, being together, and discovering all the world has to offer.... **together**. And whether they’re traveling, working out, exploring the outdoors, or competing and encouraging each other in sports, every experience is that much greater and sweeter because they have each other.... and clearly, that puts a smile on **ALL** of our faces!!

Derrick, Christina, I know that as your father, I am expected to share wisdom... to give some good, strong, wise, fatherly advice.... and of course, I will.... I want you both to know, that the most important thing you have is each other... and while your mother and I will always be there for you... in times of joy and in times of challenge.... you have **EACH OTHER**... and in this case... and while it’s really important to remain as individuals, feeding, strengthening... supporting one other in every way possible, know that your greatest strength... your **SUPER POWER**... is as a **TEAM**. You’re great as individuals... together, you’re **INVINCIBLE**!!! Never forget that... be there for each other...boost each other... remember to laugh...and always remember how much you adore each other today...

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

To Christina and Derrick... today you float together, through the “tunnel of love,” embarking on the journey of a lifetime. There will be smooth sailing... twists... turns... storms...**everything**.... Remember to keep each other close, stay the course, and always look towards the horizon.... **together**....

Here’s to a life filled with love, health, happiness, and more joy than you might ever wish for. Congratulations!! We love you!! Thank you all!!