**WEDDING SPEECH**

**FOR**

**PETER HORGAN**

Hello everyone, and welcome!. For those of you that may not know, I am Peter Horgan, (**If you want and it’s appropriate, you can say…** ) … You know… the **OTHER** guy who until **VERY** recently, shared a last name with Mary Jo!! (**And wait for the laugh**). Actually, don’t get the wrong idea…I’m Mary Jo’s father….

Mary Jo’s mother, Mary Kay, and I are very grateful for our family and friends who have gathered here today to celebrate Mary Jo and Matt’s wedding. We would like to express a heartfelt thank you to Fr. Georges for the beautiful ceremony, and for his wisdom and guidance in preparing Mary Jo and Matt for the sacrament of marriage…. And speaking of my wife… I would like to thank Mary Kay for all the energy and enthusiasm she put into planning this magnificent day and for being a wonderful wife, mother, and inspiration for all of us. Somewhere, there’s an “urban legend” that claims I work all the time… if that’s true… and I’m not saying it **isn’t**… the **real** **legend …** and the gluein this family is, and has always been, this woman (**point to your wife**).

We also want to thank Steve and Anna Crone for their generosity, enthusiasm, and involvement with today’s celebration, but most of all, we want to express our appreciation to them for raising such a wonderful son… as you know, we’ve got three of our own, so we **KNOW** what it takes to nurture and guide a young boy to become a substantial, respected, caring man…..

I’d like to point out that Mary Kay and I celebrated our 35th wedding anniversary this week, so we know a little bit of the dedication and love it takes to make a marriage work… for at least 35 years… and counting…and we feel so blessed to have such a happy marriage and the gift of our growing family. I would like to welcome Matt into the Horgan family. From the first time I met Matt at Drew and Sara’s engagement party, I was immediately comforted with his polite and easy going personality, and as we got to know him, Mary Kay and I continued to affirm to ourselves and each other, that our daughter demonstrated excellent intuition in finding and falling for, Matt.

A little while ago, I mentioned that there might be a legend about my work habits… of course, you understand that all I do, I do for my family…. well, let me tell you… Our 4 children are all very close in age.  I was getting used to their deliveries fitting into my work schedule… thanks, Mary Kay!!!  Peter and Drew were very accommodating and were both born on a Saturday.  Evan had to be delivered early-The doctor said we couldn’t pick a Saturday … maybe he didn’t want to work on Saturday either?? (**Wait for the laugh**) , but we **could** schedule the day Mary Kay was to be induced in advance, so I was able to make that work.  Evan, being the considerate person he remains today, arrived in less than 4 hours-So, I only had to miss a half-day of work. … Way to go, Evan!!  Now, odds were not in our favor… we should have known… our fourth was gonna go against type. Not only did Mary Jo break our “**boy streak**,” … which was fine… we were running low on boy names… she was born on a **WEDNESDAY**-a **BRAZEN** move… **especially** in this family…and I thought to myself “**SHE GOT ME**!! This little girl has spunk!” The definition of spunk is: spirit, determination, nerve, liveliness, courage, boldness.  Mary Jo always gives 100% to everything she is involved with, and she lives her life with the same spirit and determination she showed that first day we actually met her for the first time…. Thankfully with a little less **screaming**… (**Wait for the laugh).**

Mary Jo has always been very devoted to her family, friends and teammates.  As an excellent and avid athlete, our daughter cultivated a strong and loyal “following.” Its so heartwarming to see so many of Mary Jo’s teammates, friends, “cheering section,” and coaches from Gwynedd Mercy Academy Elementary,  Mount Saint Joseph Academy and Villanova University who have honored Mary Jo and Matt by being here today and sharing this very special moment.

Throughout her life, her spunk was recognized and celebrated by others…**(if you want, you can say)** I’m not one to brag, but man, I am so proud of my daughter…. That determination, spirit, and fearless focus she discovered as a baby and nurtured as a young girl, playing with her brothers, has served her so well throughout her life….Mary Jo was

- Selected First Team All-State in Pennsylvania for Field Hockey and Basketball

-Philadelphia Inquired 2011 Player of the Year

-finished her Master of Accountancy from Villanova University within 7 months of receiving her Bachelor’s degree

Now that so many of you are gathered here today, I would like to take this opportunity to clear up the notion our sons have that Mary Jo was “the favorite.”  Just because she was the only child allowed in the sunroom, able to leave her animal toys set up on the front foyer stairway for weeks, had a garage bay spot cleared for her car when she was 16, was the only one of our children who did not have perfect attendance in high school and when she asked for a dog, a puppy suddenly arrived, it’s just that it was so hard to refuse her spirited negotiation skills… that, and the three of you, Peter, Drew, and Evan, **eventually** wore us down….. Eh… That sounds good… I’m sticking with it!! (**Wait for the laugh**).

Matt, the way you treat Mary Jo makes it clear how much you love her. You make her so happy and we find it reassuring that you truly appreciate her spunk as much as we do.  Of course Mary Kay and I are still trying to figure out the fascination you two have with those crime podcasts…. Should we be concerned? (**Wait for the laugh**). We are honored to have you be part of our family.  Families can sometimes be a handful… Some people are known to come to a marriage with baggage….. others come to a union with spirit, enthusiasm, a love of life, and a dog named Lilly. On behalf of Lilly, we also want to thank you for being an excellent doggy daddy.

It is heartwarming to feel the energy in this room tonight. It’s an affirmation of the love and respect we all share for these two. Let’s all raise our glass and give our best wishes to Mary Jo and Matt…. May you have health, happiness, endless podcasts, and more than you might ever dream of, in your long, wonderful, happily ever after!!! We love you!! Thank you!!