**WEDDING SPEECH**

**FOR**

**RICHARD ESTEROW**

Hello everyone!!! It’s so great to see so many of you tonight… some locals…. Some who have traveled from far and wide…. to be here to celebrate Nicole and Bryan at this very special occasion…. This big, grand, full tilt wedding of their dreams…. So whether you’ve gotten here by plane, train, automobile, or UBER, it’s just fantastic that we are all together. Tonight is about love, celebration, and gratitude, and I am going to do my best to express all of that in the few brief but meaningful moments I have to speak.

Little did my wife Karen and I know, all those years ago, when we had the brainstorm to send Nicole to Camp \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ when she was just ten years old, that she would wind up meeting her best friend, the love of her life… her **PERSON**…. Karen and I figured, “Hey, what an opportunity!!! Great place to learn sports!!! Practice healthy competition at inter camp games!!! Indulge in arts and crafts!!! Learn to function a little independently from us!!! It all sounded great…. but I don’t recall seeing anything in the brochure about ten year olds finding their husbands!!! But then again, Nicole was always advanced for her age!!! (**Wait for the laugh**). She has also always been a people person and very in tune with her surroundings…. It’s what makes her who she is and so good at what she does … as a wonderful daughter, a fantastic friend, a valued, astute Special Ed teacher, and now, a devoted, loving wife.

Nicole inspires people…. she always has- she has a sense of humanity about her. When she was little, we thought she might join the Peace Corps when the time came, but until then, we, as her parents…. and granted, we might be a little biased… always thought she was **magical**… so much so, that she and I used to do our own little magic routines… it was so cute… others had tricks… we had “**magic** **shtick**… “ (**Wait for the laugh**) …. And it’s because of that magic that really runs through Nicole’s very being, that her mother and I wanted to make sure that she and Bryan would have the magical time of their lives at this wedding of their dreams, right here and right now.

Of course, we all know the saying, “We make plans and G-d laughs.” We also know that nothing can stop a special young couple in love. You might say that tonight’s celebration is “Nicole and Bryan 2.0.” Events of the past few years conspired to delay the “big plans,” but determination rules, and as the “professionals” might say, when life hands you a curve ball, **reframe**. In my case, I got an extra year to plan this speech!

I said earlier that tonight is about love and celebration. It’s also about gratitude. In spite of the challenges we have all had to face…. separately… and together, we have so much for which to be thankful… especially with regard to Nicole and Bryan and this beautiful wedding celebration. To my wife Karen, thank you for being the visionary… for bringing each aspect of this couple’s wishes to life…. For being **relentless**…I mean **enthusiastic**….(**wait for the laugh)** with just about everything that we are enjoying tonight. Some say G-d is in the details…. In my opinion, it’s really Karen!!! To Bryan’s parents, Karen and Paul, thank you for participating in this wonderful wedding…. Of course, having a son like Bryan is definitely the greatest contribution we could have dreamed of!! To all of Nicole and Bryan’s grandparents…. Whether you’re here with us physically or in spirit, we carry you in our hearts and we celebrate today because of all that you’ve given to us… the heritage… the history… the strength and love… To Bryan’s brother and sister, Steven and Stephanie, and to all of you… our extended families… friends… your energy and good wishes for Nicole and Bryan inspire us and fill this room to bursting and we couldn’t be happier.

To Bryan, Karen and I want to officially welcome you to our family, even though, let’s face it, we’ve all known, for a really long time, that you’ve been a part of our tribe, not only as Nicole’s best friend and now husband, but as a son to us, and more importantly, as a brother to Corey… don’t think we don’t notice how you two commiserate… not like Bryan and Corey, but more like Frick and Frack…. And we **LOVE IT**!!!

Nicole and Bryan, we celebrate you, your marriage, and the incredible bond you two share….. to paraphrase that sage, John Mulaney, may your marriage be like an IPhone… different, exciting versions and features every year…. **PLUS** you get “hot” in the middle of the afternoon for no reason……welllllllll…. Just remember to keep installing those upgrades!! (**Wait for the laugh**).

In closing, I would like to offer a toast to the happy couple. Nicole and Bryan, it’s no secret that you two find inspiration, in contemporary culture, and while you love to laugh with John Mulaney, you also love to be inspired by Thomas Rhett….

“I bought her a ring and she said ‘I do…’

Ain’t it funny how life changes  
You wake up, ain’t nothing the same and life changes  
You can’t stop it, just hop on the train and  
You never know what’s gonna happen  
You make your plans and you hear god laughing  
Life changes, and I wouldn’t change it for the world.”

I would like to invite you all to raise a glass as I propose a toast to our bride and groom:

To Nicole and Bryan…. Here’s to a life together filled with lots of magic, love and laughter, health and “hot moments,” good fortune, happiness, and more than you might ever wish for.” Congratulations!! We love you!!