**WEDDING SPEECH**

**FOR**

**PETER HENRY**

**REVISED**

Hello everyone!!!!!!!  How about that beautiful wedding ceremony???  Wasn’t that something?  (**Wait for applause and cheers).**  Well, it’s good to know that you agree with Deb and me in that we just witnessed something very special.  Congratulations Chelsey and Foley!  You two are the **BEST** reason to have put so much heart and soul into this wonderful moment. And speaking of great moments, I want to express a colossal thank you to my wife Deb, to Jeff and Liz, to the Staffs at Schreier Interiors, The Essence Event Center St. Andrews Lutheran Church for the planning and perfecting that went into this very special day.  It is wonderful to be here, together, to celebrate and share our joy for the marriage of our Chelsey to Foley. First, I’d like to offer a special welcome to our **THREE TIMERS…** you know**,** our immediate families and supportive friends.  I want to say that although it’s been said that “Life is not a dress rehearsal,” at least as far as my speeches go, by now you’ve been trained on where to laugh and just how loud to groan… in the right spots, of course!!! (**Wait for the laugh**). You have been here for all three of these big events… but I confess… although I’ve heard there’s a Five Timers Club on Saturday Night Live, where everyone that’s hosted at least five times gets a very plush navy blue velvet smoking jacket, regretfully, that’s not gonna happen here… **insert groan**… (**wait for the laugh**). …And welcome to our **FIRST TIME ATTENDEES!** Foley’s family and their supportive friends.  YOU CAN RELAX. “Third time’s a charm and I think I’ve worked out **MOST** of the kinks, this should  go fairly well!!! Of course, with Chelsey I’ve had time to practice…. I would also be remiss if I didn’t acknowledge and thank all of you that have taken the time to be here… and whether you’ve traveled from two miles away or across the country, we are thrilled that you made it. **Thank you all** for being here.

A wise person once said “Give me the child when he or she is seven years old, and I will show you the adult.” Welllllll, actually, in **THIS CASE**, I’ve changed that to “Give me the child when he or she are in **preschool** …..” For those of you that may not know…. This romance goes back…. **WAAAAAAAY** back to Preschool at St. Andrews Preschool Academy and yes the “**pot stirrer**”….ummmm I mean teacher was Miss Jan… she was truly the fairy godmother of this story.  **YES**…. we **STILL** call her “Miss Jan and she proudly takes credit as the “Matchmaker “ for these lovebirds! (**Wait for the laugh**). Sadly, although Miss Jann was supposed to be with us today, duty called… and Miss Jan is **STILL** making the world a safe place for “love in pre-school…”. Getting back to **“way back when,”** It’s funny… all along Deb and I thought they were there learning their A B C’s…. Turns out they were getting a jump start on their **I D O’**s (**Spell that out and wait for the laugh**)!!!

Jeff and Liz… We have known you for a number of years and Deb and I are so happy to congratulate you… acknowledge you... for raising such a fine son, and we’re thrilled to officially welcome you to our family.  We’ve had some great fun in the past and we **CANNOT WAIT** to share more family time, holidays, and events with you in the future… **WE REALLY APPRECIATE YOU!**

And Foley, I knew early on that you’d fit right in… those card games we’ve had gave a **BIG** clue… grab a dictionary and look up “competitive and doesn’t like to lose,” and you’ll see pictures of the Henry family….and Foley… I heard in upcoming editions… there will be more pictures with you in it!!! I better practice!!

Chelsey, **YOU ARE** an absolutely beautiful bride!!! You have always had vision for this day and you knew from an early age what you wanted.  That reminds me of how determined and polite you’ve always been …. I remember the time we went out to eat.  You said, “Can I have a cheeseburger?” …and when asked how you wanted it done, you very matter-of-factly declared, “**GOOD**.”  Short… sweet… to the point… focused.  That’s my girl!! You are such a sweet and caring person and it’s easy for everyone to see the **GOOD** in you just radiating out and touching others…….your manners as a child we’re impeccable and it’s clear that you’ve only gotten sweeter, kinder, and more considerate to those around you. While you were a polite little girl, to this day when we go out to eat, when it’s your time to order, you **STILL** say “Can I have…. ???” **OF COURSE** you can!!

And now to the both of you.  You’ve come a long way from Miss Jan’s preschool class. Chelsey and Foley, you two have spent the past 7 years forming, growing, and nurturing your beautiful bond…. You learned by instinct that the best foundation for a healthy, meaningful marriage is one built on Faith in God, friendship, shared experience, mutual respect, an incredible dedication to one another and the beautiful family you’re building. Maeve is clearly a remarkable example of the best of you  both, and we could not be prouder of you all.

Deb and I remember that conversation we had a while ago… we all knew it was time to move on, and Foley you said it, “We have to stop this extended juvenile adolescent living!!!, and so you did!!! And **BOY**!! Have you moved on…. In the past year alone, you two have graduated from PT and medical school. Foley, you are going to make a huge difference in people’s lives as an orthopedic surgeon, Chelsea, you’re making your compassionate mark as a physical therapist, you moved to Bismarck, found jobs, had a baby, celebrated Match Day, and if **ALL OF THAT** wasn’t enough, now you’ll be moving to Kansas City!!!  … oh. And yeah… you got **MARRIED**!!! I’m tired just thinking about it!!! **THAT’S A LIFETIME FOR MOST PEOPLE.**

Most of us are familiar with the general question, “What’s more important, love or career?”  Most people would say love, but a **VERY WISE WOMAN** said, “Love, of course, but with love, someone also has the potential to take that strength and put it into career.”  It doesn’t have to be one or the other….. with wisdom and love, we have the energy to build on our professional sides and you two are brilliant examples of that… I know we all admire how you’ve brought your passions to your careers as well.  Bravo,  Well Done!!!

Ladies and gentlemen, I’d like to invite you to raise a glass as I propose a toast:

To Chelsey and Foley….through a lifetime of friendship, you’ve grown together…. although you’re both individuals, you are strengthened by each other.  May you two and Maeve have all of the love, health, good fortune, and happiness you can possibly imagine, and may God give strength, friendship, and partnership in each other. It is known that there is an expression in yoga… “Breathe deeply, love fully, live wholly….” That is what we wish for you…We love you!!! Congratulations!!