**WEDDING WELCOME SPEECH**

**FOR**

**STEVEN ANGIOLILLO**

Hello everyone, and thank you all for being here to share this amazing experience as we celebrate two of the most beautiful people I know, in this incredible paradise. It’s heartwarming to see so many people from home and it’s even more special to meet Alexa’s family and friends from the “European” branch! Wow!!! I now realize my heart expands proportionately to the love and joy we find in this room!! We’ve all probably heard that “the course of true love never runs smooth…” Welll…. Whoever said that didn’t take into account summer travel time and airline adventures to get halfway around the world!!! (**Wait for the laugh**). Honestly, we hope your travels from far and wide were smooth, efficient, and blissfully uneventful. I know I speak for my wife, Susie and all of the Angiolillo family when I say we are beyond moved and thankful that so many of you are sharing this very important moment with us.

Tonight’s dinner is about “**Welcome**.” For all of us that have traveled so far to be here, we feel more welcome than I might have ever imagined. Whether we say, **Zdravo** or **Bok** (**these are 2 words I found to mean hello in Serbian… you may want to double check them when you get to the hotel**), one thing is for sure, and that is we are all **porodica** (**I think this means family**)… but let’s face it…. I’m just a simple guy from New York, so please forgive the mispronunciations!!! (**Wait for the laugh**).

I stand before you as a **VERY PROUD** father. I have always been so grateful for the family that Susie and I built. Frank and Stevie, our daughter, are perfection, if I must say so myself…. Welllll, actually, truth be told, Susie did all the heavy lifting… she has always been an amazing mother and wife…. I just kept the sinks from clogging… (**Wait for the laugh**) and I could not be more heartened to welcome our new daughter, Alexa, to our family. Frank and Alexa met in high school and you know how “they” say, “when you know, you know?” Well, when Alexa came along, I think we **ALL** knew, and here we are, celebrating, love, connection, partnership, and most of all family.

I’m sure there are already lots of stories and legends that have been created out of this incredible adventure. As you get to know each other, more stories and legends will be added to the history of this match and marriage, but there are a few points that will remain as part of the “saga”:

* Both Susie and Phyllis, Alexa’s mom, have done an amazing job raising such special, loving people. Peter, Alexa’s father, has done a wonderful job of being the pillar of the family.
* The number of people that have traveled from far and wide to celebrate this incredible couple are truly a testament to just how loved they are, individually and most importantly, together
* And…. One last thing….. Frank, now that you’re married, no more “**groomzilla**.” (**Wait for the laugh**).

Now…. Before I turn on the “**waterworks**” for real… yes, I may be a plumber but I’m trying to keep it together!!! (**Wait for the laugh**), one last heartfelt, grateful, meaningful “thank you” to all of you. Remember this very special experience when you get caught up in the “everyday stuff” and remind yourself **Life is good**!! Thank you!!