**BEST MAN SPEECH (REVISED)**

**FOR**

**CHRIS CHIAPPINELLI**

Hello! For those of you that may not know me, I’m Chris Chiappinelli.… for those of you that **DO** know me, call me Chipo. I am Brian’s groomsmen, **HOPEFULLY** one of his best friends, and with any luck… **STILL WILL BE** depending how I survive the next few minutes.

 (**pause**)

 Brian has a lot of great friends that could have easily been up here. I’m not sure how my name was picked… out of a hat...? short straw…? Or maybe Brian looked back on my fabled career and remembered my **extensive** training in public speaking… you know… screaming safety instructions at the top of my lungs on a noisy, crowded dock… yeah… perfect practice for **THIS**… (**wait for the laugh**). No matter how I Landed this “gig,” I am thrilled and honored to be up here with Brian and Denise on their special day and having the opportunity to say a few words about them.

I would like to express my deepest gratitude to Denise and Brian’s parents… Yolonda, Ruben, Katie, and Sam, for raising such amazing people. Even though Sam may no longer be with us physically, he is very much here in spirit and I am sure he is tremendously proud of his son and Denise.

 I would like to thank the Martinez Family for coming from Nevada to join us today, as well as Rai Gooding, Manuela Vaitiare, Marc Vong, Marie Chung Tien, and Hotu Chung Tien for coming all the way from Tahiti.

 I would also like to thank whomever is hosting this awesome wedding because not only is it a great opportunity to celebrate the love these two have for each other, it gives all of us a chance to come together for a really good, happy occasion…. and **BOY**, I’m pretty sure we **ALL** welcome that!! In the strange times we have all had to endure over the past few years, I have to say it feels **GREAT** to be with all of you , especially Denise and Brian , so thank all of you for coming!!!

 (**pause**)

When someone mentions that really special, enduring friendships are timeless, believe them! I honestly can’t remember the actual very first moment I met Brian…maybe it was at a party, maybe a Dimestore Hoods show, or maybe just someplace around town. Growing up in San Pedro, there were a lot of things going on in the 90’s, and back then, everyone knew everyone… and they still do!! But Brian’s been one of “ **My Boys**” for over 20 years. I feel like he was always just **THERE**. When I say it feels like a lifetime, please know that in this case, it’s a **very good thing**.

 (**pause**)

In 2008 or 2009, our friend Matt had a Cinco De Mayo party at his house in Redondo. It was a great party with a lot of different people there, with some new faces in the crowd. I’m not sure if that is where Brian first met Denise , but man she left an impression!!! I remember him talking about her **a lot**… like **A LOT**!! I had a feeling that she was special to Brian right out of the gate. Denise was NICE, PRETTY, COOL TO HANG WITH, but most of all, my buddy was **so happy** at the thought of her. As time passed it was clear that I was correct, because there were some moments when I would ask Brian to hang out or do something and he would have to clear it with Dee. This was an obvious sign Brian had found someone special. **YES**… my friend Brian,... getting **WOOPED**… **SERIOUSLY**… it couldn’t have happened to a nicer guy!!!

 (**pause**)

Brian and I had some great times together, before and after Denise and Brian became a couple. Some of my best memories with Brian were at the port, when we worked in the hold together in **GANG 15**, as well as when, later on, we bought San Diego Charger season tickets together. Boy… that was memorable!!! Brian had a hard time sitting still at the games at times, which, by the way, I totally understand, however….

One time I’ll never forget was when he wanted to get up to go and get a drink. Just as we got to the bar we heard the stadium erupt in **THUNDEROUS CHEERS**. We looked up at the TV and Ladainian Tomlinson had just broken the all time record for most touchdowns scored in a single season by a running back… **YEAH**… we got to see it … **SORT OF**. (**Wait for the laugh**)

You know when people say, “Enjoy the view?”…. meaning life happens in the down times as well as in the big moments? Well, I have to say, those season tickets weren’t just about being in the stadium and kinda sorta catching once in a lifetime moments… Driving down to San Diego and staying the night at hotels on game day and getting a chance to hang out with this great guy was also really great. The two hour drive might have been an awkward drive for some people, but those drives were some of the most memorable for me. Our friendship grew with each road trip and Brian was always ready to listen and give advice on things that were going on in my life, at work, in my relationship with my now wife, and a number of other issues that would pop up.

 (**pause**)

Let’s not forget one other **REALLY** important thing… Brian was always a good guy to have on your side … not only was he 6’... **AND STILL IS**… Brian knew how to defend himself, which… not gonna lie, I used to my advantage when needed, but even so, he has been a loyal friend that has always had my back … **literally**… and has gotten me out of some dicey situations… including when the CHARGERS played the JETS. It’s not easy when someone… **ME**… is a JETS FAN… in the middle of San Diego…. if you get my drift… If your gonna be heckled at a 55,000 seat stadium… your gonna want Brian at your side, checking the crowd and watching the exits!!! **THANKS, PAL**!!! (**Wait for the laugh**).

 (**pause**)

 I am so happy for Brian to have met someone as wonderful as Denise. From what I can see, she makes him a happy man, and together they clearly love each other and truly enjoy life. Whether it’s snowboarding in Mammoth, cruising on the boat with Bear and Cheech, or hanging out with Brian’s daughters Honor and Chase, Denise and Brian show us the meaning of living the **GOOD LIFE**. As we all know, some people never find that kind of devotion and happiness, and that’s why I am so grateful to Denise for making my buddy’s life complete.

 (**pause**)

I would like to invite all of you to please join me in raising a glass to Brian and Denise. I wish I could think of something poignant as marriage advice… say from our early days, but honestly… all I’ve got would be from a **SAFETY TALK**??? What can I say… **Buckle up, wear your helmets, and no sharp objects???**  Come to think of it…. **Hmmmm** (**and wait for the laugh**). On behalf of everyone in this room, I want to wish you both a lifetime of PEACE, LOVE, HEALTH, HAPPINESS and MORE THAN YOU MIGHT EVER WISH FOR… Love you guys… CHEERS!!! Thank you!!