**Chakkala Speech [EZ Speech No. 16337]**

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Father-of-the-Bride speech by Mr. John Chakkala on the occasion of the marriage of his daughter, Jamie.

GOOD EVENING, EVERYBODY . . . i’m so grateful to all of you for joining us AT this joyful event THIS EVENING, and i’d like to give a special shout-out OF THANKS AND APPRECIA-TION to [first NAMES OF SALVA-TORE’S PARENTS] D’ALLES-ANDRO and their guests for helping us celebrate SALVATORE AND JAMIE’S nuptuals. [TO SALVATORE PARENTS] YOU’VE RAISED A WONDERFUL, WONDERFUL SON, [FIRST NAMES OF STEVEN’S PARENTS], AND I’M SO ENORMOUSLY GRATEFUL THAT HE’S NOW BECOME A MEMBER OF OUR FAMILY, AS WELL. I’D ALSO LIKE TO EXPRESS OUR VERY SPECIAL THANKS TO MERCY’S BROTHER, [NAME], AND HIS LOVELY WIFE, [NAME], WHO TRAVELED SOME [NO.] MILES FROM INDIA TO BE WITH US THIS EVENING. I’D ALSO LIKE TO GIVE A SPECIAL SHOUT-OUT TO [NAMES AND REASONS FOR OTHER SHOUT-OUTS].

now, any of you fathers out there who’ve walked a daughter down the aisle at her wedding knows the temendous mish-mosh of emotions every father goes through at a time like this. on the one hand, you’re faced with the stark reality that you’re finally and irrevoc-ably losing your little girl, and there’s a certain sad-ness to this that only a father can know. of course, she’ll never stop being, at least in *your* mind, “daddy’s little girl.” but now she’s “all growed up,” as they say, a woman in her own right and a beautiful blushing bride.

on the other hand, you couldn’t possibly be *happier* than you are on this day, BECAUSE you realize that your little girl’s marrying the man of her dreams, a man you’ve come to know and love and appreciate as a man of substance, who loves and cherishes your daughter truly and deeply, just as you’d hoped and PRAYED her husband would. and gaining such a wonderful son-in-law as SALVATORE D’ALLASANDRO makes me happier than i could possibly express.

SO I GUESS “BITTERSWEET” IS REALLY THE BEST WAY TO SUM UP MY FEELINGS RIGHT NOW, AS THE MEMORIES OF [NO.] YEARS OF OUR LIFE TOGETHER WITH JAMIE COME FLOODING BACK TO ME. LIKE THAT TIME — I’M SURE YOU REMEMBER, JAMIE — WHEN YOU WON THAT COLORING CONTEST AT [NAME OF SCHOOL/CHURCH/ EVENT] BACK WHEN YOU WERE JUST [AGE] AND YOU USED YOUR PRIZE MONEY NOT ONLY TO BUY YOURSELF A BRAND NEW BICYCLE, BUT A NEW BIKE FOR YOUR BROTHER, [NAME] AS WELL. THIS GENEROSITY OF HEART IS JUST *SO* VERY JAMIE!!

WHAT JOY SHE BROUGHT INTO OUR HOUSEHOLD, WHAT HAPPINESS! HER SMILE, EVEN NOW, LIGHTS UP ANY ROOM SHE ENTERS, AND HER SPIRIT MAKES EVERYONE AROUND HER FEEL WONDERFUL. HER CARING SOUL AND SENSITIVE HEART ARE LENGENDARY, AND ALL WHO KNOW HER KNOW WELL HER DEEP CONCERN FOR OTHERS, AND ESPECIALLY HER PASSIONATE ADVOCACY ON BEHALF OF UNDERPRIVILEGED AND NEGLECTED CHILDREN. [TO SALVATORE] YOU’RE A LUCKY, LUCKY MAN, SALVATORE, BUT WHAT’S SO SPECIAL TO *ME* IS THAT YOU OBVIOUSLY APPRECIATE JUST WHAT A SPECIAL WOMAN YOUR NEW WIFE IS.

[WITH MOCK SARCASM] NOW, AS EVERYONE IN THE CHAKKALA FAMILY KNOWS, JOHN CHAKKALA NEVER, *EVER* GIVES UNASKED-FOR ADVICE. [ASIDE] HAH! BUT I WILL ABANDON THAT POLICY TONIGHT AND QUOTE FOR YOU THIS GUIDANCE FROM 1 CORINTHIANS, CHAPTER 13, COURTESY OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR, JESUS CHRIST — AND FRANKLY, I COULD SAY IT ANY BETTER:

*“LOVE IS PATIENT AND KIND; LOVE DOES NOT ENVY OR BOAST; IT IS NOT ARROGANT OR RUDE. IT DOES NOT INSIST ON ITS OWN WAY; IT IS NOT IRRIBABLE OR RESENTFUL; IT DOES NOT REJOICE AT WRONGDOING, BUT REJOICES WITH THE TRUTH. LOVE BEARS ALL THINGS, BELIEVES ALL THINGS, HOPES ALL THINGS, AND ENDURES ALL THINGS. SO NOW FAITH, HOPE AND LOVE ABIDE . . . BUT THE GREATEST OF THESE IS LOVE.”*

WELL . . . THAT’S IT FROM THE ADVICE DEPARTMENT. SO LET ME JUST CLOSE MY REMARKS THIS EVENING WITH THIS TOAST ON YOUR WEDDING NIGHT (ENCOURAGING THE AUDIENCE TO RISE): TO JAMIE AND SALVATORE: MAY YOUR LOVE BE ADDED, AND MAY IT NEVER BE SUBTRACTED. MAY YOUR HOUSEHOLD MULTIPLY AND MAY YOUR HEARTS NEVER BE DIVIDED. MAY YOUR GRASS ALWAYS BE GREEN AND YOUR SKIES FOREVER BLUE. MAY YOU LIVE AS LONG AS YOU WANT AND NEVER WANT FOR AS LONG AS YOU LIVE. MAY GOD BLESS THIS MARRIAGE AND KEEP IT STRONG FOREVER.

AMEN.

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