**[EZ Speech Writers No. 15611]**

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Remarks by Jim Chivers on the occasion of his marriage to Cecilia Buhl.

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LADIES AND GENTLEMEN — OUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY, AND ALL OF YOU CHERISHED GUESTS WHO’VE JOINED US TO CELEBRATE OUR WEDDING: IT’S JUST SO WONDERFUL TO HAVE YOU ALL WITH US THIS EVENING!

NOW, THE PURPOSE MY SPEECHTONIGHT IS TO GIVE A LOVING TOAST TO MY BRIDE, cecilia; BUT BEFORE I DO SO, THERE ARE A number OF PEOPLE THAT I SIMPLY MUST THANK FOR MAKING MY LIFE , MY HAPPINESS, AND THIS NIGHT POSSIBLE. and if the following reminds you of watching one of those awards ceremonies you see on television — well, like all those oscar winners and toni winners, and grammy winners, i’ve just got a HELLUVA of folks to thank, SO PLEASE BEAR WITH ME.

FIRST of all, of course, I want to THANK ALL OF YOU FOR BEING HERE. I KNOW THAT SOME OF YOU HAD TO TRAVEL QUITE A WAYS TO JOIN US THIS EVENING, and FOR THAT, I’M ENORMOUSLY GRATEFUL. i only wish that all my friends could be here; but alas, for some, it was just a trip too far.

I ALSO WANT TO THANK MY WONDERFUL AND CARING PARENTS, [first names] chivers, WHO’VE BEEN THERE FOR ME ALWAYS, AND WHO’VE LOVED ME UNCONDITIONALLY THROUGH ALL THE UPS AND DOWNS OF MY ROLLER-COASTER LIFE.

next, all praise and admiration and sincerest thanks to the man who so expertly made all the arrange-ments for our wedding: Gordon [last name]. won-derful job, gordon [gordie]; we’re forever in your debt.

NEXT, I WANT TO THANK ALL OF OUR GROOMSMEN AND BRIDESMAIDS, WHO’VE ATTENDED CECILIA AND ME ON THE OCCASION OF OUR NUPTUALS. WHAT A WONDERFUL, BEAUTIFUL, HANDSOME, AND CARING GROUP OF MEN A WOMEN! YOU ARE — EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU — A BLESSING IN OUR LIVES; AND I’M PROUD TO BE ABLE TO COUNT YOU ALL AS FRIENDS.

AND OF COURSE, I must EXPRESS MY DEEPEST gratitude and APPRECIATION TO [first names of ceclia’s parents] buhl, cecilia’s DAD AND MOM, FOR the emormously hard word they DEVOTED TO PUTTING our wedding ceremonies together. [first names of ceclia’s parents]: YOU COULDN’T *POSSIBLY* HAVE RAISED A MORE LOVING AND GRACIOUS AND COMPASSIONATE DAUGHTER AS CECILIA. I’M SO VERY, VERY LUCKY TO HAVE YOU AS MY PARENTS-IN-LAW, AND YOU SHOULD BE VERY, VERY PROUD OF YOUR WONDERFUL DAUGHTER.

I ALSO WANT TO EXPRESS MY THANKS TO CECILIA’S BROTHER, ETHAN, AND HER SISTER, LIZZY, BOTH OF WHOM HAVE BECOME DEAR FRIENDS. CECILIA TELLS ME THAT LIZZY’S ALWAYS KIND OF BEEN THE GLUE OF THE BUHL FAMILY; AND THEY TELL ME THAT ETHAN, BLESS HIS HEART, WAS IN HIS YOUNGER DAYS — HOW DID THEY PUT IT? — DUMB AS A BOX OF ROCKS, BUT WHO DESPITE THIS APPARENT DEFICIT GRADUATED MED SCHOOL AND BECOME A HELLUVA FINE DOCTOR.

[SHORT PAUSE.]

ON JULY 4TH OF 1939, THE NEW YORK YANKEES’ FAMOUS FIRST BASEMAN, LOU GEHRIG, MADE ONE OF THE MOST memorable SPEECHES IN THE HISTORY OF AMERICAN SPORTS. IN LESS THAN two YEARS, HE WOULD BE DEAD FROM THE DISEASE THAT WAS LATER TO BEAR HIS NAME, *LOU GEHRIG’S DISEASE*. BUT IN THAT SPEECH BACK IN 1939,

DESPITE THE CERTAIN KNOWLEDGE THAT HE WAS DYING, HE DECLARED TO THE SOLD-OUT CROWD AT YANKEE STADIUM:

*“TODAY I CONSIDER MYSELF THE LUCKIEST MAN ON THE FACE OF THE EARTH.”*

WELL . . . WITH ALL DUE RESPECT TO MR. GEHRIG’S MEMORY, THERE IS NOW A NEW CANDIDATE FOR THAT TITLE. FOR ON THIS NIGHT OF [DATE AND YEAR], I, jim chivers, OF [CITY AND STATE OF BIRTH], CAN TRULY SAY THAT ***I*** AM THE LUCKIEST MAN ON THE FACE OF THE EARTH! AND WHY DO I SAY THIS? BECAUSE I HAVE THE UNBELIEVABLY GOOD FORTUNE OF MARRYING THE MOST BEAUTIFUL, THE MOST SUPPORTIVE, THE MOST GENEROUS, THE FUNNIEST, THE MOST HARD-WORKING, AND THE MOST GENUINELY COMPASSIONATE PERSON I’VE EVER KNOWN: MY GORGOUS FIANCE, cecilia, WHO — ON TOP OF ALL OF THAT — ALSO HAPPENS TO BE THE VERY BEST FRIEND I HAVE IN ALL THE WORLD. [TO CECILIA] I’M SO PROUD OF ALL YOUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN LIFE — THE MASTER’S DEGREE IN [MAJOR] YOU RECENTLY EARNED FROM [NAME OF SCHOOL], AND YOUR PROMOTION TO [TITLE OF NEW POSITION] AT [NAME OF COMPANY OR ORGANIZATION]. LET’S HOPE OUR KIDS INHERIT YOUR BRAINS, AND MAYBE JUST A LITTLE OF MY BRAWN.

so with the thank-you’s out of the way, i hope you’ll all join me in raising a glass [gesturing toward cecilia] to my dearly beloved bride, cecilia buhl-soon-to-be-chivers. i love you, darling with all my heart!

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