**Garcia Speech [EZ Speech No. 16170]**

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Remarks by Mr. Ralph Garcia on the occasion of his daughter’s wedding.

hello there, everybody! IT’S SO NICE TO SEE ALL OF YOU HERE THIS EVENING. AS YOU KNOW, OF COURSE, i’m the proud and doting father of [pointing to ALEXIS] that gorgeous and talented and accomplished young women over there: my dear, sweet daughter, ALEXIS.

i’d like START WITH a special shout-out to JUSTIN’S PARENTS, CLYDE AND LINDA PITTMAN and their guests, for helping us celebrate ALEXIS AND JUSTIN’S nuptuals. [TO THE PITTMANS] YOU’VE RAISED A TERRIFIC SON, LINDA AND CLYEDE, AND BOTH LAURIE AND I ARE THRILLED THAT HE’S NOW BECOME A MEMBER OF OUR FAMILY, AS WELL.

now, any of you fathers out there who’ve walked a daughter down the aisle at her wedding knows the tRemendous 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 irrevocably losing your little girl, and there’s a certain sadness 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, AS 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 JUSTIN makes me happier than i could possibly express.

CAN THERE BE ANY QUESTION THAT THIS WAS A MARRIAGE MADE IN HEAVEN?

SO NOW, WHAT CAN I TELL YOU ABOUT ALEXIS? AS A KID, SHE WAS A SLEEPWALKER, WHICH — AS YOU CAN IMAGINE — SCARED THE HELL OUT OF US. SHE TALKED IN HER SLEEP, TOO — USUALLY IN ENGLISH, BUT SOMETIMES IN A LANGUAGE WE COULDN’T QUITE DECIPHER. THIS, APPARENTLY, IS COMMON AMONG SLEEP-WALKERS, BUT WE DIDN’T KNOW THAT AT THE TIME. THANK GOD SHE GREW OUT OF IT BY THE TIME SHE WAS [AGE].

I STILL REMEMBER VIVIDLY THE DAY WHEN LAURIE AND I DROPPED ALEXIS OFF AT THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA FOR THE FIRST TIME. I’M SURE ANY OF YOU WHO’VE BEEN IN THIS SITUATION CAN APPRECIATE HOW DEVASTED AND WORRIED WE WERE ABOUT SEEING HER STARTING OFF ON A WHOLE NEW PHASE OF HER LIFE, KNOWING THAT *OUR* LIVES WOULD NO LONGER BE ENLIVENED BY HER DAILY PRESENCE IN OUR HOME. SO THERE WE WERE, SLOBBERING AND CRYING AND BLOWING OUR NOSES, WHILE ALEXIS WAS STANDING THERE, LAUGHING AND JOYFUL, TELLING US TO GET THE HELL OUT OF THERE AS SOON AS WE COULD PULL OURSELVES TOGETHER ENOUGH TO GET INTO THE CAR AND DRIVE BACK TO [HOME CITY]. HOW LOVING . . . HOW UNDERSTANDING . . . HOW CONSIDERATE . . .HOW *ALEXIS*!

ALEXIS IS A PET LOVER, AND SHE’S ABSOLUTELY BONKERS ABOUT HER LITTLE CHIHUAHUA, MAE MAE. [TO JUSTIN] I DON’T KNOW EXACTLY HOW GOOD A COOK ALEXIS IS, BUT I CAN TELL YOU TO EXPECT TO BE SERVED TACO BELL AT LEAST THREE TIMES A WEEK!

[PAUSE FOR A CHUCKLE, HOPEFULLY.]

NOW AS YOU KNOW, ALEXIS WORKS IN MEDICAL SALES AND AS A CONSEQUENCE, SHE’S FAMILIAR WITH A GREAT NUMBER OF HEALTHCARE ORGANIZATIONS, HOSPITALS, CLINICS AND THE LIKE; AND SO I JOKE WITH HER THAT, WHEN I BECOME OLD AND DECREPIT AND UNABLE TO TAKE CARE OF MYSELF, I KNOW THAT SHE’LL PLACE ME IN THE VERY *FINEST* NURSING HOME IN THE ENTIRE [CITY] AREA!

I COULD GO ON, BUT I THINK I’VE ALREADY USED UP MY TIME LIMIT. SO LET ME CLOSE WITH A BIT OF FUTURE-CASTING. one day, ALEXIS AND JUSTIN, you shall become parents. and your children — may god grant them health — will grow up all too quickly. and Before you know it, you’ll be standing at a table on a dias like this one, toasting your son or your daughter’s NUPTIALS. then and ***only*** then will you be able truly to APPRECIATE the joy, the gratitude, and the love that’s coursing through your parents’ veins right now.

SO LET ME CLOSE THIS LITTLE SPEECH BY ASKING YOU ALL TO JOIN ME IN A TOAST TO THE NEWLYWEDS:

[to ALEXIS anD JUSTIN] ALEXIS AND JUSTIN, 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.

AND MAY YOU LIVE AS LONG AS YOU WANT, AND NEVER WANT FOR AS LONG AS YOU LIVE. AMEN.

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