**Harwick Speech [EZ Speech No. 16810]**

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Remarks by Jesse Hardwick on the occasion of the marriage of his best friend, Enrique.

hello there, everybody. my name’s jesse harwick, and i’m SERVING AS my friend, enrique’s, best man tonight — or at least the best man he could FIND to spearhead the celebration of the death of his bachelorhood. But i hasten to add that this IS certainly not A FUNEREAL occasion, because who *wouldn’t* want to give up his bachelorhood for a woman as gorgeous, as sweet, as loving, and as capable as . . . [gesture toward the bride] the lovely and beautiful estephania [LAST name of bride]? [LEAD THE AUDIENCE applause; THEN gesturing toward enrique] enrique, old man: you might have made some questionable choices in your life, but marrying estephania sure as [hell/heck] wasn’t one of ‘em!

now, before i go on with MY little speech, i’d LIKE TO THANK ALL OF YOU FOR JOINING US TONIGHT ON THIS JOYOUS OCCASION. i think IT’S JUST TERRIFIC THAT YOU ALL COULD BE HERE, GIVEN THAT THOSE OF you TRAVELING FROM THE STATES INCURRED NOT A LITTLE EXPENSE TO BE HERE. AND I WANT TO ESPECIALLY thank estephania’s parents, [first and last name of parents], for putting together these wonderful festivities. [to her parents]: [first ames of parents, YOU COULDN’T *POSSIBLY* HAVE RAISED A MORE LOVING AND GRACIOUS AND COMPETENT DAUGHTER THAN ESTEPHANIA, AND ENRIQUE IS SO VERY LUCKY TO HAVE SNAGGED HER. YOU SHOULD BE VERY, VERY PROUD OF YOUR WONDERFUL DAUGHTER!

i couldn’t be happier tonight, ENRIQUE, FOR YOU’RE the best and DEAREST FRIEND I’VE EVER HAD, AND ONE OF THE brightest people i know. enrique and i have BEEN FRIENDS FOR ALMOST A QUARTER CENTURY, EVER SINCE he MOVED UP TO FLORIDA from peru WHEN HE WAS ABOUT TWELVE YEARS OLD. HIS FAMILY LIVED JUST A FEW BLOCKS FROM US, AND ENRIQUE AND I BECAME FAST FRIENDS RIGHT AWAY. WE PLAYED TOGETHER CONSTANTLY — STREET HOCKEY, A LITTLE SOCCER, A LITTLE *BÉISBOL*, AND LOTS AND LOTS OF TENNIS. [TO ENRIQUE] AND MY BACKHAND’S STILL BETTER THAN YOURS! I REMEMBER COMING OVER ENRIQUE’S warm and welcoming home AND SAMPLING SOME OF THE MOST DELICIOUS FOOD I’VE EVER TASTED — A LITTLE *TACU TACU*, SOME WONDERFUL *POLA A LA BRASA*, A LITTLE *PACHAMANCA*, AND SOME to-die-for *LECHE ASADA* FOR DESSERT!

AFTER HIGH SCHOOL, I ENROLLED IN FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY, AND A YEAR LATER, ENRIQUE FOLLOWED SUIT. AND WHAT A TIME WE HAD AS FRATERNITY BROTHERS IN [NAME OF FRATERNITY], ATTENDING FSU FOOTBALL GAMES, AND GENERALLY ENJOYING CAMPUS LIFE. what stories i could tell you all about our adventures together at fsu, but since i’m rapidly running out of for this speech, i won’t. i’ll only say that it’s a good thing that the statute of limitations has run out on all of ‘em!

INSTEAD, LET ME JUST END MY SPEECH WITH A TOAST, IN WHICH I HOPE YOU’LL JOIN ME. [RAISE A GLASS] TO ENRIQUE AND ESTEPHANIA: MAY YOUR LOVE BE EVER INCREASED, 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 LOOK BACK ON THIS DAY ALWAYS AND REMEMBER HOW VERY MUCH YOU LOVED EACH OTHER RIGHT AT THIS MOMENT.

AND FINALLY: MAY YOU LIVE AS LONG AS YOU WANT AND NEVER WANT FOR AS LONG AS YOU LIVE. *PUEDE DIOS BENDECIRTE Y GUARDARTE!*

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