**[EZ Speech Writers No. 15902]**

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Remarks by Mr. Peter Henry on the occasion of the marriage of his

daughter, Brittany, to Mr. Joe Voeller.

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[TAP A WATER GLASS A FEW TIMES TO GET THE AUDIENCE’S ATTENTION, AND WHEN EVERYONE’S SETTLED DOWN, BEGIN YOUR REMARKS.]

as i look out over this WONDERFUL gathering of friends and family, my heart is overflowing with thankfullness AND JOY. i’m so very, very grateful to all of you for joining us here [today/this evening/ tonight]; and if the “locals” in the audience will for-give me, i’d like to give a special shout out to all those folks who had to travel some little bit to get here: I know that traveling to minnesota in the win-tertime can sometimes be a DAUNTING TASK, and both debra and i thank you most sincerely for making the effort. and incidentally, you can get your snowmobile’s parking stub validated at the front door after the festivities.

[pause for an audience chuckle.]

now, any of you fathers out there who’ve walked a daughter down the aisle at her wedding knows the SWIRLING mish-mosh of emotions every father feels at that moment. on the one hand, you MUST face the stark reality that you’re finally and irrevocably 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 — a beau-tiful blushing bride with a whole new life ahead of her.

on the other hand, i couldn’t possibly be *happier* than i am on this day, BECAUSE i realize that my little girl’s marrying the man of her dreams, a man I’ve come to know and love and appreciate as a man of substance AND DEPTH, A MAN who loves MY daughter deeply, just as I’d hoped and PRAYED he would. and gaining such a wonderful son-in-law as joe voeller makes me happier than i can possibly express.

[turning to the voellers] YOU’VE RAISED A TERRIFIC SON, [VOELLER’S FIRST NAMES], AND BOTH DEBRA AND I ARE JUST *THRILLED* THAT THIS WONDERFUL YOUNG MAN OF YOURS IS NOW A MEMBER OF OUR FAMILY, TOO.

NOW, ANYONE WHO’S KNOWN BRITTANY OR JOE FOR ANY LENGTH OF TIME — EITHER INDIVIDUALLY OR AS A COUPLE — IS SURELY CONVINCED, AS I AM, THAT THE LOVE AFFAIR BE-TWEEN THESE TWO INDIVIDUALS WAS TRULY A MATCH MADE IN HEAVEN, FOR THEY HAVE SO VERY MUCH IN COMMON, BESIDES THEIR MUTUAL INVOLVEMENT IN SOCCER:

THEY’RE BOTH ENORMOUSLY PASSIONATE, CARING, AND COMMITED PEOPLE.

THEY BOTH WORK HARD AT EVERYTHING THEY DO, AND NEVER QUIT BEFORE THE JOB AT HAND IS DONE.

THEY BOTH CARE DEEPLY ABOUT THEIR FAMILIES AND THEIR FRIENDS, MANY OF WHOM THEY’VE HAD FOR YEARS.

AND THEY’RE BOTH PROUD OF THEIR CHRISTIAN FAITH AND STRIVE ALWAYS TO MANIFEST THE TEACHINGS OF CHRIST IN EVERYTHING THEY DO. GOD IS TRULY THE “MASTER MATCH-MAKER,” AND HE CERTAINLY HIT A HOME RUN WITH THESE TWO!

NOW OF COURSE, I COULD TELL YOU DOZENS AND DOZENS OF HEARTWARMING STORIES ABOUT BRITTANY AS A YOUNG CHILD, BUT THAT WOULD REQUIRE THAT YOU ALL SIT HERE FOR AT LEAST A DAY AND A HALF, AND WE JUST HAVEN’T GOT ENOUGH FOOD FOR THAT. SO INSTEAD, LET ME SHARE JUST ONE LITTLE STORY ABOUT HER THAT WAS BOTH FUNNY AND — THOUGH WE COULDN’T KNOW IT AT THE TIME — PROPHETIC.

WE WERE ON A FAMILY TRIP VISITING SOME OUR COUNTRY’S FABULOUS NATIONAL PARKS. WHEN WE GOT TO THE GRAND CANYON AND WERE — AS MOST EVERYBODY IS — OVER-WHELMED WITH THE GRANDEUR OF THE PLACE, ONE OF US — I DON’T REMEMBER IF IT WAS DEBRA OR ME — MENTIONED TO BRITTANY, SEVEN YEARS OLD AT THE TIME, THAT SHE’D PROBABLY NOT SEE THESE VISTAS AGAIN FOR A VERY LONG TIME. “SO WHAT,” SHE RESPONDED, “I’LL SEE IT AGAIN WHEN I’M A WIFE!” WHERE IN GOD’S NAME THAT COMMENT CAME FROM IS STILL A MYSTERY TO ME, BUT IT DOES [TURNING TO JOE] EMBOLDEN ME TO OFFER THE ONLY PIECE OF UNASKED FOR ADVICE YOU’LL EVER HEAR FROM ME, JOE, AND THAT IS: *TAKE THIS LADY TO THE GRAND CANYON!*

[AFTER THE AUDIENCE’S CHUCKLE]

I’D LIKE TO CONCLUDE MY REMARKS NOW BY INVITING YOU ALL TO JOIN ME IN A FATHER’S TOAST TO HIS DEAR, SWEET DAUGHTER AND HIS WONDERFUL NEW SON-IN-LAW:

[RAISE A GLASS TOWARD JOE AND BRITTANY] MAY GOD BLESS YOU AND KEEP YOUR MARRIAGE STRONG.

MAY HE GRANT YOU HEALTH FOR ALL YOUR DAYS, AND MAY ALL YOUR DAYS BE FILLED WITH FAITH IN GOD AND LOVINGKINDNESS TOWARD EACH OTHER.

MAY YOUR GRASS ALWAYS BE GREEN AND YOUR SKIES FOREVER BLUE.

AND FINALLY, IN THE WORDS OF AN OLD IRISH BLESSING: MAY YOU LIVE AS LONG AS YOU WANT AND NEVER WANT FOR AS LONG AS YOU LIVE.

GOD BLESS YOU.

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