**[EZ Speech Writers No. 16050]**

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

daughter, Haley, to Mr. Jake Sheehan.

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GOOD EVENING, EVERYONE.

i guess for some of you this evening’s celebration, might SEEM A LITTLE LIKE *déjà vu*, OR — IN COMPUTERESE — “henry wedding reboot.” for debra and me, i think it WOULd better be called: henry FAMILY bliss 2.0!

as most of you know, deb and i gave our middle daugHter, brittany, away last january. it was a wonderful wedding, filled with joy and love, and NOW WE GET to do it all over again. what a blessing!

before I give my oboligatory “father-of-the-bride” speech, i want to take just a moment to recognize and thank all the wonderful folks who, for a sec-ond time in six months, have traveled north to be with us THIS EVENING. i suspect that, like me, you just never get tired of being part of something so spe-cial, so sweet, and so sacred. SO I WELCOME YOU ONCE AGAIN, AND THANK YOU FOR BEING HERE.

but let me also welcome all the folks who’re here from the sheehan side of AISLE. it was such great fun planning this celebration with you, and I thank the entire sheehan continGent for being here with us this evening. [to the sheehans] BARBIE AND mark, YOU’VE RAISED A TERRIFIC SON, AND BOTH DEBRA AND I ARE *THRILLED* THAT THIS WONDERFUL YOUNG MAN OF YOURS IS NOW A MEMBER OF OUR FAMILY, TOO.

i’d also like to recognize and thank [give the names and relationship to you of ANY other attendees you want to recognize].

i spoke at brittany’s wedding of the mish-mosh of emotions that every father feels WHEN HE’S WALKING HIS daughter down the aisle at her wedding. but i must admit that there’s a very, very *special* feeling when that daughter’s your first born CHILD.

when your first child’s born, your whole world changes in an instant. And WHEN you hold that TINY infant in your arms for the very first time, you know for sure and certain that there’s no way under god’s heavEn THAT you could *possbily* love anyone or any thing as much you love that little pink bun­dle of joy RIGHT NOW. of course, when you *do* have more kids, it becomes abundantly and instantly clear that — despite what you might have felt at that singular moment — love is AN infinitely expan-sible QUANTITY.

there’s another reason why haley’s birth was such a life-changing moment FOR THE HENRY FAMILY. You see, the day after she was born, her grandfather [name or side of family] had a terrible stroke, and the doctors gave him only a very small chance of survival. but survive he did — for 17 more years, NO LESS! — and deb and i are absolutely convinced that the arrival of haley into *his* life was the main rea-son he kept on keeping on.

now, there’s a school of thought that suggests that a person’s birth order — first child, second child, and so FORTH — has a profound efefct on HIS OR HER personality later in life. according to this theory, first-born children tend to be reliable, con-scientious, driven, diligent, structured, cautious, at times a little controlling, and frequently high-achieving. while there’s still some debate about this whole birth-order business, i can tell you that the PROFILE i just read fits haley to a tee.

she’s certainly a very conscientious, highly-driven, and dilgent person. she’s very, very organized and, yes, sometimes a bit on the cautious side — although she’s not always as been as cautious as she might have been.

haley’s also funny as hell, especailly when she was a kid. I remember one time when she was upstairs, in bed, but apparently with no intention whatsoever of falling asleep. her one-year-old baby sister was sharing THE BEDRoom with her at the time. well, after several attemps at settling her down from afar, debra called upstairs and said, “if you don’t settle down right THIS MINUTE, i’m gonna come up there and put that naughty little child to sleep myself!” To which haley replied, “you mean the one sleeping in the crib?”

then there was a time when debra asked haley, who was a teenager at the time, what she wanted to be after college. might she BE interested in following in her dad’s footsteps and entering the financial field? “No,” haley responded, “I want to work!” [pete: it’s a funny story, but I don’t IT’S think worth the time to tell it; your choice, of course.]

halley’s as generous as the day is long, and there’s nothing she wouldn’t do for a friend or family mem-ber in need. but beyond these characteristics — and perhaps more important than all of ‘em — is the fact that haley is one of the most loving and caring and GIVING people i’ve ever known.

she’s demonstrated this both in her family life and her professionAL LIFE. as each of them was born, haley gladly took on the role of “big sister” to brittany and [no.] years later, to [name of third child]. she loved them both dearly and SHE became very much a second mother to them. IN HER PROFES-SIONAL LIFE, TOO, HALEY’S SHOWN THE SAME DEDICATION TO SERVICE AND THE BETTERMENT OF OTHERS. SHE’S BEEN A SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER, WORKED IN NURSING HOMES, AND IS NOW WORKING AS [A/AN] [PROFFESION] AT [NAME OF WORKPLACE].

now here’s the beauty part of this whole thing: while jake sheehan doesn’t happen to be a first-born child, he shares so many qualities and values with haley, it’s not funny.

they’re both HIGHLY people- and family-oriented. both their lives are centered in god and in christian values. they love cycling and [other mutual hob-bies] together. they’re both foodies, WHICH IS TO SAY, haley loves to cook, and jake loves to eat.

we’ve know jake sheehan for ABOUT three years now, and we’ve come to love him like a son and ad-mire him for all the things he’s been able to ac-complish in his life. [IF THERE’RE SPECIFIC ONES, MEN-TION THEM HERE] we’re so enormously grateful that such a good man as jake was the man haley chose to marry. i HONESTLY don’t think i’ve ever seen her hap-pier.

LET ME CONCLUDE MY LITTLE SPEECH BY INVITING YOU ALL TO JOIN ME IN A TOAST TO THE NEWLYWEDS:

[RAISE A GLASS TOWARD JAKE AND HALEY] HALEY AND JAKE: MAY YOUR LIVES BE FILLED WITH JOY AND HAPPINESS FORE-VER MORE. MAY YOU EXPERIENCE THE MAXIMUM OF PEACE IN YOUR LIVES, AND THE MINIMUM OF STRIFE. MAY GOD WATCH OVER YOU AND KEEP YOUR MARRIAGE STRONG. AND MAY YOUR LOVINGKINDESS FOR ONE ANOTHER NEVER WANE BUT ONLY GROW. AND MAY THE GRACE OF GOD PROTECT YOU AND NURTURE YOU, ALL THE OF YOUR LIVES.

AMEN, AND GOD BLESS YOU.

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