**Hinz Speech [EZ Speech No. 16315]**

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Remarks by Mr. Dennis Hinz on the occasion of his son, Phillip’s, wedding.

GOOD AFTERNOON, everybody. AS MOST OF YOU KNOW, I’M phil hinz, AND I’M the proud and beaming father of [pointing to phil] that HANDSOME YOUNG MAN over there, MY SON, phil. AND now I’M THE *EQUALLY*-PROUD FATHER-IN-LAW OF the sweet and lovely, sonia [last name], WHO i can assure you is as beautiful ON THE INSIDE AS SHE CLEARLY IS ON THE OUTSIDE. gaining such a wonderful daughter-in-law as sonia makes both linda and me happier than WE COULD possibly express. [turning to soniA’s parentS] YOU’VE RAISED An absolutely TERRIFIC daughter, [first names of sonia’s parents], AND BOTH linda AND I ARE *THRILLED* THAT THIS WONDERFUL YOUNG woMAN OF YOURS IS NOW A MEMBER OF OUR FAMILY, TOO.

now as most of you know, my son, phil, is a war hero. not because he enlisted in the army JUST . . . what? . . .[no.] months out of college. not because he returned safely from a DANGEROUS one-year tour in iraq. not because he was promoted to the rank of captain DURING HIS TOUR. and not because he was awarded a bronze star for meritorious and heroic service.

NO. phil is a hero to me simply because he went.

he had the courage and commitment to country to put his own plans and hopes and dreams on hold in order to serve this great nation of ours. he didn’t have to do it. none of the brave men and women in our armed forces HAVE to DO IT. but they put their lives on the line anyway, and i assure you: they don’t do it for the money! they’re all heroes in my eyes, and I’d hope that all of you feel the same way. [pause for possible applause]

NOW, I COULD GO ON AND ON FOR MANY HOURS ABOUT WHAT A TERRIFIC GUY PHIL HAS TURNED OUT TO BE, OR ABOUT ALL HIS MANY ATTRIBUTES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS IN LIFE. BUT I SWORE ON MY HONOR THAT I WOULDN’T EMBARRASS HIM. SO INSTEAD, LET ME TELL YOU ONE LITTLE STORY THAT I THINK ILLUSTRATES TWO OF PHIL’S MOST ENDEARING AND ADMIRABLE CHARACTERISTICS — HIS FULL-BORE COMMITMENT TO EVERYTHING HE EVER TRIES TO DO; AND HIS DEEP AND ABIDING LOVE FOR HIS BEAUTIFUL NEW BRIDE.

A LITTLE BIT AGO — I GUESS IT WAS AROUND [YEAR] — LINDA AND I NOTICED THAT PHIL BEGAN COMING LATE FROM WORK. NEEDLESS TO SAY, I WAS CURIOUS — NOT THAT SUCH THINGS AS GAMBLING OR DRUGS OR CAROUSING CROSSED MY MIND . . . ABSOLUTELY NOT! SO WHEN I MENTIONED MY CONCERN TO LINDA, SHE FINALLY FESSED UP AND TOLD ME: “HE’S TAKING DANCING LESSONS, DENNIS,” SHE SAID; “YOU NOW HOW MUCH SONIA LOVES TO DANCE!” NOW MIND YOU, I’D ALWAYS BELIEVED THAT — WHATEVER OTHER GENETICS GIFTS MY SON MIGHT’VE received FROM ME — THE ABILITY TO DANCE WAS *NOT* ONE OF THEM. IN FACT, ANY RHYTHM I FEEL IN MY HEAD STOPS AT MY WAIST AND GOES NO FURTHER, AND I THINK MY *OWN* TWO LEFT FEET ARE WORTHY OF SCIENTIFIC STUDY. BUT AGAINST ALL EVOLUTIONARY ODDS, AND OUT OF LOVE AND COMMITMENT TO SONIA, PHIL *DID* LEARN HOW TO DANCE — HOW WELL, SONIA’S NOT SAYING YET, BUT I GUESS WE’LL ALL FIND OUT TONIGHT . . . EH? BUT THERE’S NO PRESSURE, PHIL.

[FACETIOUSLY] NOW, AS EVERYBODY KNOWS I . . . [CLEAR YOUR THROAT] . .*NEVER* GIVE ADVICE THAT ISN’T ASKED FOR. BUT IN THIS CASE, I shall VEER FROM THIS POLICY ONLY TO TELL YOU, PHILLIP AND SONIA, THAT THERE ARE TWO SIMPLE KEYS TO A HAPPY AND LONG-LASTING MARRIAGE. YOU WANNA KNOW WHAT THEY ARE? good. i’ll tell you. THEY ARE, NUMBER ONE, COMMITMENT; AND, NUMBER TWO, HONESTY IN COMMUNICA-TIONS.

IF YOU’RE REALLY GONNA MEAN THAT “TILL DEATH DO US PART” THING TOMORROW, THEN YOU KNOW THAT NO AMOUNT OF DAY-TO-DAY TRAVAIL, OR EVEN THE OCCASIONAL CRISES OF LIFE, CAN TEAR TWO PEOPLE APART who ARE truly in love with each and ARE deeply COMMITTED TO each OTHER’s happiness. AND SECONDLY, I’M SURE I DON’T HAVE TO TELL either of you HOW IMPORTANT HONESTY is, ESPECIALLY IN YOUR COMMUNI-CATION WITH EACH OTHER. AND REMEMBER, PHILLIP, THAT WOMEN *honestly* BELIEVE THAT THE LAST WORD IS THEIR BIRTHRIGHT. DON’T MESS WITH THAT, SON, for YOU’LL DO SO ONLY AT YOUR PERIL.

AND with THOSE BITS OF profundity, i’d like to close my remarks with a SHOUT-OUT of thanks and appreciation to [name], PHIL’S BEST MAN; TO [name], SONIA’S MAID OF HONOR; and to [SONIA’S PARENT’S FIRST NAMES] for all their help in making this event so special.

AND SO NOW IN CLOSING, I’D LIKE TO OFFER THIS TOAST: [RAISE A GLASS TOWARD THE BRIDE AND GROOM] PHILLIP AND SONIA: 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.

MAY YOU LOOK BACK ON THIS DAY ALWAYS, AND REMEMBER HOW 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. GOD BLESS THE TWO OF YOU!

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