**Menges Speech [EZ Speech No. 16354]**

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Remarks by Matt Menges at the rehearsal dinner for his son, Joe’s, wedding.

[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 [this evening/ tonight]. AND IF I MAY, I’D LIKE TAKE A MOMENT TO GIVE A SPECIAL SHOUT-OUT OF WELCOME TO HARRIET FELLS, [WIFE’S NAME]’S MOM AND JOE’S MATERNAL GRANDMOTHER, WHO’S WITH US HERE [TE/T]; AND I’M ALSO HAPPY TO ANNOUNCE THAT MICHELLE’S GRANDMOTHER [NAME] WILL BE WITH US TOMORROW AT THE WEDDING. I THINK IT’S A BLESSING THAT THESE REVERED GRANDPARENTS CAN BE WITH US AT THIS WONDERFUL FAMILY OCASSION.

NOW, I MUST TELL YOU THAT [WIFE’S NAME] AND I couldn’t possibly be happier than WE ARE on this day, BECAUSE WE SEE that our son’s marrying the woman of HIS dreams, a woman we’ve come to know and love and appreciate as a woman of substance AND DEPTH, A woMAN who loves OUR son deeply, AND WHO, LIKE HIM, IS COMMITTED TO LIVING A LIFE OF SIGNIFICANCE. gaining such a wonderful daughter-in-law as MICHELLE nissen makes US happier than WE can possibly express.

[turning to the nissens] YOU’VE RAISED A TERRIFIC daughter, roger and eileen, AND BOTH [YOUR WIFE’S NAME] AND I ARE BOTH THRILLED AND HONORED THAT THIS WONDERFUL YOUNG WOMAN IS NOW A MEMBER OF OUR FAMILY, TOO.

LET ME TELL YOU all ONE LITTLE STORY THAT’LL ILLUSTRATE WHY I’M SO VERY, VERY PROUD OF OUR SON, THE LAWYER!

EARLY IN HIS CHILDHOOD, WHEN THE OTHER KIDS IN SCHOOL WERE LEARNING TO READ AT THE NORMAL PACE, JOE COULDN’T KEEP UP. IT TURNS OUT HE HAD A LEARNING ISSUE THAT WE DIDN’T RECOGNIZE AT FIRST. BUT WHEN IT WAS CLEAR THAT JOE WAS HAVING A PROBLEM, WE CALLED IN A READING SPECIALIST — A MIRACLE WORKER, REALLY — WHO WORKED WITH JOE IN PRIVATE TUTORING SESSIONS FOR ALMOST [NO.] YEARS. IT WAS A HUGE STRUGGLE FOR JOE, BELIEVE ME, BUT WITH THE HELP OF THE MOST WONDERFUL, [NAME OF READING TUTOR], JOE PERSEVERED AND NOT ONLY OVERCAME HIS READING BLOCK, BUT HE TURNED INTO A VORACIOUS AND FANTASTICALLY EFFICIENT READER AS A RESULT. THIS IS A VERY HANDY SKILL TO HAVE FOR A LAWYER — don’t you think? — AND SO OUR MOST GRATEFUL THANKS GO TO THE SKILLED AN PATIENT [MRS/MS LAST NAME OF TUTOR].

WE’RE SO VERY PROUD OF EVERYTHING JOE HAS ALREADY ACCOMPLISHED IN LIFE. YOU KNOW, IN HIS FIRST CASE, HE HAD TO DEFEND A TEEN-aged girl WHO’D JUST GOTTEN HER LICENSE AND HAD THEN PROMPTLY PASSED A SCHOOL BUS ILLEGALLY. NOT THE CRIME OF THE CENTURY, I ADMIT, BUT IT WAS JOE’S MAIDEN CASE, AND HE [WON/LOST**\***] IT. WE STILL KID HIM MERCILESSLY WITH THE FAKE HEADLINE WE MADE UP AT THE TIME: *“SUBURBAN TEEN ILLEGALLY PASSES PARKED SCHOOL BUS! rookie lawyer [wins/loses] case. FILM AT ELEVEN!!”*

BUT I’VE GOTTA TELL YOU THAT MY PROUDEST MOMENT AS THE FATHER OF JOE MENGES CAME WHEN THE STAFF AT THE [NAME] COUNTRY CLUB STOPPED CALLING JOE “MATT MENGES’ SON” AND STARTED REFERRING TO ME AS “JOE MENGES’ DAD.” [tugging at your heart] ya gotta absolutely love it, don’tja . . . ?

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**\***Expand on the outcome, one way or the other, if you can.

[FACETIOUSLY] NOW, AS EVERYBODY KNOWS I . . . [CLEAR YOUR THROAT] . .*NEVER* GIVE ADVICE THAT ISN’T ASKED FOR. BUT IN THIS CASE, I shall disregard THIS POLICY ONLY TO TELL YOU, JOE AND MICHELLE, THAT THERE ARE THREE SIMPLE KEYS TO A HAPPY AND LONG-LASTING MARRIAGE. THE FIRST ONE IS TO PICK THE RIGHT SOULMATE. [TO THE NEWLYWEDS] YOU’VE PASSED THAT ONE WITH FLYING COLORS, in all ways and at all levels!

NOW, THE SECOND KEY TO A SUCCESSFUL MARRIAGE IS COMMIT-MENT. IF YOU TWO REALLY DO MEAN THE “TILL-DEATH-DO-US-PART” vows YOU’LL be TAKing 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 COM-MITTED TO each OTHER’s happiness. I KNOW IN MYHEART THAT YOU TWO PASS THIS TEST, AS WELL.

AND FINALLY, I’M SURE I DON’T HAVE TO TELL either of you HOW IMPORTANT *HONESTY* is, ESPECIALLY IN YOUR COMMUNICA-TION WITH EACH OTHER. AND IN THAT REGARD, JOE, PLEASE, I urge you to REMEMBER THAT WOMEN *honestly* BELIEVE THAT HAVING THE LAST WORD IS THEIR BIRTHRIGHT. DON’T MESS WITH THAT, SON, for YOU’LL DO SO ONLY AT YOUR PERIL.

THUS ENDETH THE LECTURE, AND SO I’D LIKE TO CONCLUDE THIS LITTLE SPEECH BY INVITING ALL OF YOU TO JOIN ME IN A FATHER’S TOAST TO HIS DEAR AND LOYAL SON AND HIS WONDER-FUL AND ACCOMPLISHED DAUGHTER-IN-LAW:

[RAISE A GLASS TOWARD JOE AND MICHELLE] TO JOE AND MICHELLE: 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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