**Misner Speech [EZ Speech No. 16195]**

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Remarks by Spence Misner upon the marriage of his son, Drew.

[after “clanging” the assembled guests to attention] well, thank you all very much for being here with us THIS EVENING to share the joy of DREW and ANNEKE’S wedding. i’m so grateul to all of you for joining us AT this happy event — ESPECIALLY THOSE WHO’VE HAD TO TRAVEL SOME DISTANCE TO BE HERE. i know that antwerp’s not JUST around the corner for most of you AND WE DEEPLY APPRECIAT THE EFFORT IT TOOK FOR YOUR TO BE HERE. at least there’s the frequent-flyer miles, YES . . . ?

JUDIE AND I WOULD like to give VERY special THANKS to lutgarde and frank aspers, anneke’s folks, for all the wondeful hospitality THEY’VE SHOWN US WHILE WE’VE BEEN HERE, and for the blessing of THEIR PRESENCE this evening to celebrate OUR KIDS’ nuptuals together. [TO the aspers]. I’m sure you’re both as proud of your “grow-ed”-up little girl, ANNEKE, as judIE and i are of our ONCE AND FUTURE HERO, DREW. ANNEKE is every bit as beautiful on the inside as she is on the outside. YOU’VE RAISED A WONDERFUL daughter, FRANK AND LUTGARDE, AND I’M so very glad THAT sHE’S NOW A MEMBER OF OUR FAMILY, AS WELL.

YOU KNOW, WHEN DREW AND ANNEKE BEGAN DATING IN EARNEST — AND BY EARNEST I MEAN JETTING ACROSS THE ATLANTIC OCEAN AS IF IT REALLY WERE JUST A POND — JUDIE AND I WOULD OFTEN MUSE TO OURSELVES, “WHY IN GOD’S NAME COULDN’T DREW FIND A NICE [CHOOSE AN ADJECTIVE] GIRL FROM THE STATES?” ONLY TO FIND OUT LATER THAT — DURING THE SAME TIME — THE ASPERS WERE THINKING, “WHY IN GOD’S NAME COULDN’T OUR ANNEKE FIND A [CHOOSE AN ADJECTIVE] BOY FROM BELGIUM?” FUNNY HOW THAT WORKS, EH . . . ? BUT AIN’T LOVE GRAND?!!?

NOW I THINK EVERYONE IN THIS ROOM KNOWS AT LEAST SOMETHING ABOUT DREW AND/OR ANNEKE, AND MANY OF YOU KNOW A LOT. AND ANYONE WHO KNOWS THEM AT ALL CERTAINLY KNOWS THAT THEY’RE DEEPLY IN LOVE WITH EACH, FANATICALLY PROTECTIVE OF EACH OTHER, AND IMMOVABLY COMMITTED TO EACH OTHER. WHICH IS ALL YOU NEED FOR A BLESSED AND ENDURING MARRIAGE, YES . . . ? SO I WON’T BORE YOU WITH their BIOGRAPHIES OR SING THEM PAEONS OF PRAISE. BUT WHAT I ***WILL*** DO TELL YOU WHY I CALLED OUR SON A HERO A BIT AGO, SO THAT YOU ALL MIGHT GET A DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF THE TRUE NATURE OF THE MAN ANNEKE ASPERS IS MARRYING.

THE YEAR WAS [YEAR], AND WE’D TAKEN DREW TO A WATERPARK NEAR HOME IN [NAME OF HOMETOWN]. HE WAS SIX YEARS OLD AT THE TIME. BEFORE ANYONE ELSE NOTICED, DREW SAW A LITTLE BABY LYING ON THE BOTTOM OF THE POOL, AND IN AN INSTANT, HE JUMPED IN AND PULLED THE BABY OUT. BUT HERE’S THE THING IS: DREW DIDN’T KNOW HOW TO SWIM! [PAUSE] NOW WHERE DOES THAT COME FROM?! WHERE DOES THAT KIND OF COURAGE COME FROM IN A SIX-YEAR-OLD BOY/ I’D LIKE TO TAKE CREDIT AS THE INSPIRATION OF COURSE, BUT THAT KIND OF COURAGE CAN’T BE TAUGHT. IT’S INBORN, INSTINCTIVE, AUTOMATIC. AND BELIEVE IT OR NOT, IT WASN’T A ONE-OFF!

ABOUT FOUR YEARS AFTER THIS POOL INCIDENT, DREW AND HIS TWO-YEAR-OLD SISTER, [NAME] WERE SITTING IN OUR [BRAND OF CAR] PARKED IN OUR DRIVEWAY — DREW IN THE BACK SEAT, [NAME] IN THE FRONT. SOMEHOW, [NAME] MANAGED TO KICK THE GEARSHIFT LEVER INTO NEUTRAL, AND THE CAR STARTED ROLLING DOWN THE DRIVEWAY. TEN-YEAR-OLD DREW YANKED HIS SISTER FROM THE FRONT SEAT, PUSHED HER DOWN TO THE FLOOR IN BACK, AND COVERED HER BODY WITH HIS UNTIL THE [BRAND] CAME TO A STOP AGAINST A HEDGE OF BUSHES AT THE BOTTOM OF THE DRIVEWAY, WITH NEITHER KID THE WORSE FOR WEAR.

DREW HAS ACCOMPLISHED A GREAT DEAL IN LIFE SINCE THEN, BOTH AS A STUDENT, AN ECONOMICS PROFESSIONAL, AND — NOW — AS A HUSBAND. BUT NOTHING WILL MAKE ME PROUDER OF MY SON THAN WHAT HE DID, ON HIS OWN, AS A LITTLE BOY WHO DIDN’T KNOW ANY BETTER THAN SIMPLY TO ACT BRAVELY.

[FACETIOUSLY] NOW, AS ANYBODY WHO KNOWS ME 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, DREW AND ANNEKE, 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 COMMUNICATIONS. IF YOU REALLY MEANT THAT “TILL DEATH DO US PART” vow, 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 I’M SURE I DON’T HAVE TO TELL *either* of you HOW IMPORTANT HONESTY is, ESPECIALLY IN YOUR COMMUNICATION WITH EACH OTHER. AND REMEMBER, DREW, THAT WOMEN TRULY, DEEPLY, AND *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], DREW’S BEST MAN, AND [name], ANNEKE’S MAID OF HONOR; YOU’RE BOTH SPECIAL, SPECIAL PEOPLE, AND YOU PERFORMED YOUR DUTIES FLAWLESSLY! THANK YOU!

[to drew and anneke] one day, my dear children — and yes, you’re still our children! — you shall become parents. and your children will grow up all too quickly. and Before you know it, you’ll be standing at a table on a dias like this one, toasting your son or your daughter’s NUPTIALS. then and ***only*** then will you be able truly to APPRECIATE the joy, the gratitude, and the love that’s flowing through your parents’ veins right now.

[to the audience]: won’t you ALL join me nOW IN this toast: [RAISING A GLASS TOWARD THE BRIDE AND GROOM] *“DREW AND ANNEKE: 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 LIVE AS LONG AS YOU WANT AND NEVER WANT FOR AS LONG AS YOU LIVE.*

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