**Speaker:** Shelley Palmquist

**Speech Type:** Wedding

**Speech Preface:**

Practice the speech a few times and read it out loud. Change words in the speech to maybe words you use more often. Make sure it sounds fluid in how you typically speak. If there are words you usually use, by all means switch them out for the ones that are in this speech. That will help people and it wont seem like you had someone else assist you with this. Also, it is okay to Pause during the speech. I would say don’t read this word for word off the paper because that might make people feel like it isn’t in the moment. However, do know your main points to the speech and have the speech very close to you in case you get choked up, and need to find your spot. Remember, no one knows what you are going to say, so if you skip around just pretend like it is what you meant to do, and no one will know the difference.

Also, there will be random bits of humor in here, these are just things I add because sometimes a little comedic relief is nice, however, if you don’t feel they will fit well by all means you can take them out and they will not affect the speech at all.

**Speech:**

Goooooood evening everyone, for those of you who don't know I am Shelley Palmquist, Amy’s mother and I cannot begin to explain to you all how happy and proud I am right now. Now, I am sure some of you have been to wedding before, and some of you are probably married and you know the feeling I am talking about right now. It’s this feeling of joy, passion, gratitude and so many other adjectives all at once. For those of you who know what I am talking about, you can imagine how hard it is for me to speak in an understandable way and attempt to look composed. But, I am not going to hide it because I am so happy to be a part of today and to see how beautiful Amy is tonight.

John, you look very handsome tonight also, but let’s be honest… that wife of yours is definitely lighting up this room. In all seriousness John, both of you look amazing together and you will continue to do so for the rest of your life’s. Speaking of the rest of your life, I hope you know that staying together for a very long time kind of runs in the family, and well since your family now… You should know that currently my parents have been married for 62 years. Yes, everyone I said 62 years! But wait, there’s more. My husband and I have been married for 31 years! You and Amy have almost been married for 1 hour and there is a secret I have to share with you. The rest of you out there who are either newly weds, or are looking to the secret of longevity I am about to share it with you so listen up. Okay, the secret that my parents have tot here 62 year marriage and my husband and I have for our 31 year marriage is… any guesses (Feel free to let people guess)… SEPARATE BATHROOMS! okay, okay in all seriousness let’s keep tonight about you two.

John, I know that Amy has shared her life with you over the last 2 years and I couldn’t ask for a better person in her life. I want you to know how special she is to our family and how happy we are to now call you family. With you two being married now though, I am going to hold you to a high standard of making sure she is always smiling, happy and feeling protected. I’m not worried though, I know you’re an exception gentleman and that you wouldn't do anything less than that.

Well I don’t want to take up too much more time so John and Amy there are just a few last things I want to share with you two. I know you two will lift each other up when you are down, you will encourage each other when you are hurt and you will comfort each other when you feel alone. I think I can speak for all of us here today when I say that we are all so lucky to be a part of your lives and to see you two happy brightens our day.

Now, ladies and gentlemen, if you will raise your glasses with mine. I would like to propose a toast, a toast to the longevity of John and Amy’s marriage, to the love and respect that these two share with each other now and forever more. The love that you two share will set an example for all those who come in contact with you.

**(Toast)**

And John, one last thing I would like to remind you of. Today, when Amy said “I do,” what she was really saying is, “ I don’t do ‘that’ anymore.” And on that note, go have shiny clean dreams and nice ones too.