Mr. Jean Adrien

 Engagement Speech Daughter: Gerly Adrien

***Jean,…..when you are ready, stand and look out into the audience. This is a happy time, so people will be talking and laughing. Wait for them to see you standing, and they will quiet down. Then begin, speak slowly, and with confidence***.

Welcome everyone, thank you all for joining us for this wonderful occasion. My name is Jean Adrien. We are so pleased that so many of you, our family, and our dear friends, could be here today sharing our happiness through this celebration. I stand here before you today not only as Jean Adrien, but also as the father of Gerly Adrien.

I am a proud man today. I am a proud member of our community, and most importantly I am a proud father today. For on this occasion we are so pleased to announce the engagement of my daughter, Gerly Adrien, to Mr. David Lindsey. **(applause).**

This is an occasion when most fathers come to terms with the fact that their little girl is now a grown woman, and that reality does not come easily. But Gerly is a woman now and has been for so many years. Gerly, I am very pleased for you, and I truly understand that this is the time now for you and David to start a life together. A life that will add new dimensions and energy to both sides of our families.

I know David’s family is also proud of him. I share those feelings too, and I am very happy that he will soon be my son-in law. David is a good man, a smart and kind man, and a wonderful addition to our family, Welcome David, **(applause).**

 2.

I want to tell you about one man’s daughter, my daughter. This is a young woman who was not only a good student in grade and high school, but also a leader as well as an inspiration to her friends. She became deeply involved in so many activities, and in so many lives. She was not shy, she was just the opposite. She took part in many school and community activities, always striving to get a project completed, and always working hard for a specific cause or event. She was always investigating and studying local civic and political matters. At a young age she even did enough research to tell her mother and me whom we should vote for. And if we even suggested we were voting for someone other than her recommendation, mercy save us, she sure told us why we were wrong, (**laughter).**

And when I say she was not shy as a youngster, that really was very evident when she laced up those basketball shoes. She was as focused on the hardwood as she was in the classroom and in her political interests. When she drove to the basket you either got out of the way, you got a defensive foul, our you ended up on your rear end. And even though she was the high scorer in so many of their games, she learned then as she knows now, how to be a team player. Through every game and tournament, she unselfishly assisted her teammates by passing in the lane, or setting up a screen, so they could take the long shot and drain the three.

And that drive, that competitive spirit, that work ethic, kept right on going as she went off to college. First experiencing a big university, then into a more modest student body campus at Bentley University. Through all her studies, through all four years, she began to learn and become involved in making a difference. She early on came to understand that so many citizens, so many newcomers, so many seniors, truly needed their voices to be heard. She helped so many complete so many simple tasks that government makes so difficult. She sat in living room after living room explaining what government does, and more importantly what government should do. Through her knowledge of finance, she came to understand how business and politics are very connected, and that those relationships need to be conducted fairly, ethically, and in the sunshine.

 3.

 If this sounds like a campaign speech it isn’t. It is a father recognizing the contributions his daughter has made to society, and the ones she will surely make in the future.

 David,…………..don’t be surprised if one day you and Gerly are packing up for the *Beltway*, and if so, Washington D.C will be lucky to have her, lucky to have you both.

My admiration for my daughter goes beyond her civic commitment. It goes to the core of who she is as a person. To the kindness and patience, she displays to everyone, as well as that bright smile that lights up every room and every life she enters.

I truly believe that she is a person who will go on to inspire people to new levels of achievement, to encourage people that they too can make a difference, and to break down so many of the barriers that challenge all of us. She does not get discouraged, and she does not accept the status quo. She will not allow our institutions or processes to be abused or mismanaged. She is not only a champion to herself and her family, but she stands ready to protect all those who seek equality, as well as the opportunity to earn a life of prosperity and fulfillment.

 Gerly, I am quite confident that you and David will take care of each other, be guiding lights for each other, and together build a proud family legacy that will carry on for generations. Young people like you are the ones who make the world a more compassionate and peaceful place for all of us.

So Gerly, I see you now as a grown woman, a businesswoman, a civic leader, and especially as my daughter,…..and I want you to know from the bottom of my heart, that I respect you, I admire you, and I **love** you.

**Please everyone, continue to enjoy the rest of the party,**

 **and THANK YOU.**