**Velasquez Speech [EZ Speech No. 16409]**

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Best Man speech by Mr. Rene Velasquez on the occasion of the marriage of his nephew, Alberto.

[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 ALBERTO’S and PEPNA’S wedding. i’m so grateul to all of you for joining us AT this happy event. [TO ALBERTO AND DANETTE, PENA’S PARENTS]: danette and alberto, I’m sure you’re both as proud of your “grow-ed”-up little girl, PENA, as [YOUR WIFE’S NAME] and i are of ALBERTO, OUR SON THE LAWYER! PENA is every bit as beautiful on the inside as she is on the outside. YOU’VE RAISED A WONDERFULLY BRIGHT, LOVING, AND RESPECTFUL daughter, ALBERTO AND DANETTE, AND I’M so very glad THAT sHE’S NOW A MEMBER OF THE our branch of the VELASQUEZ FAMILY, AS WELL.

NOW, ALBERTO’S ASKED ME TO GIVE A LITTLE SPEECH TONIGHT AS HIS BEST MAN, AND while i didn’t hesitate one second to accept this honor, i was a little at sixes and sevens as to which role i should assume in crafting my remarks.

for as you know, I’M BOTH [ALBERTO’S NICK NAME] UNCLE, HIS GOD-FATHER, often his confidant, AND — AT LEAST FOR TONIGHT — HIS BEST MAN. I LOVE WEARING THOSE FIRST three HATS, BELIEVE ME, BECAUSE ALBERTO’S BEEN LIKE A SON TO ME, and a blessing in my life. AS FOR THE BEST MAN HAT . . . WELL I CAN’T *WAIT* TO GET FINISHED WITH my speech AND GRAB ME A BEER — ACTUALLY, A COUPLE OF ‘EM, IF YOU WANNA KNOW THE TRUTH!

WHAT CAN I SAY ABOUT MY BRILLIANT NEPHEW, ALBERTO? YOU ALL PROBABLY KNOW THAT HE’S A NEWLY-MINTED LAWYER, WHO STARTED HIS OWN FIRM IN [MONTH OR YEAR]. AND THE TIMING COULDN’T HAVE BEEN MORE BRILLIANT. FOR NOT [NUMBER OF MONTHS/YEARS] after he’d’ hung out his shingle, I WAS INVOLVED IN A CAR ACCIDENT AND WAS [SEVERLY/ SERIOUSLY?] INJURED. HE DID A WONDERFUL, WONDERFUL JOB FOR ME, AND WE WON A [LOVELY/ACCEPTABLE/HARD-WON/SUBSTANTIAL/ETC.] SETTLEMENT. THE DRIVE AND PERSISTENCE AND PROFESSIONALISM WITH WHICH HE PERSUED MY CASE WAS TOTALLY AWESOME, BUT ALSO TOTALLY CHARACTERISTIC OF ALBERTO. IT’S THE ONLY WAY HE KNOWS.

YOU KNOW, it’s strange — IN LIGHT OF HIS GROWING SUCCESS AS A LAWYER, AND HIS OBVIOUS SKILL AT LAWYERING — THAT [ALBERTO’S NICK NAME] DIDN’T START OUT WITH ANY INTEREST IN THE LAW AT ALL. IN COLLEGE HE STARTED OUT MAJORING IN [SUBJECT], THEN HE SWITCHED TO [NEXT MAJOR], AND AFTER THAT HE CHANGED TO [SUBJECT]. FINALLY, HE DECIDED ON A LAW DEGREE, AND IT WAS DURING THE TIME THAT HE WAS STUDYING FOR THE TEXAS BAR EXAM THAT HE CAME TO LIVE WITH ME, AND I WAS BLESSED TO HAVE HIM UNDER MY ROOF FOR [NO.] [MONTHS/YEARS] UNTIL HE PASSED THE BAR. And while it ***was*** truly a blessing to have him with me for those few years, in one way, i was kind of relieved when he left, because I’ve gotta tell you, ladies and gentlemen, that boy can eat like a horse — a horse, his mare, and at least two of their kids! so i don’t mind telling you that i’m glad at least that my monthly food budget’s back to normal!

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, alberto AND pena, 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 THOSE SACRED VOWS YOU MADE AT YOUR WEDDING, 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, ALBERTO, 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.

[to alberto and pena] 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 UNCLE’S veins right now.

[to the audience]: sO won’t you ALL join me nOW IN a toast to the bride ang groom: [RAISING A GLASS TOWARD THEM] *“ALBERTO AND PENA: MAY YOUR LOVE BE ADDED, AND MAY IT NEVER BE SUBTRACTED. MAY YOUR HOUSE-HOLD MULTIPLY AND MAY YOUR HEARTS NEVER BE DIVIDED. MAY YOUR GRASS ALWAYS BE GREEN AND YOUR SKIES FOREVER BLUE. AND FINALLY, MAY YOU LIVE AS LONG AS YOU WANT AND NEVER WANT FOR AS LONG AS YOU LIVE.*

GOD BLESS YOU BOTH!

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