Arlene and I would like to thank all of you for coming tonight to celebrate Luke (I call him LT affectionately) and Amanda, especially those of you who traveled quite a distance. When I was typing these thoughts into my phone, the word suggestion as I started typing distance was “DiStefano”. Funny, that’s who has traveled such a long distance! (Friends of ours from NYC)

28 years old, just graduated as a Physicians Assistant (PA), looking forward to his first real job. Sister Alison is also a PA and was married last October to another PA, brother-in-law Bryan. I look forward to many differences of opinion in the very near future....... He went to Drake college in Des Moines, Iowa and majored in Theatre & Cellular & Molecular Biology. Uses oth sides of his brain??????

Also was in dance, mostly hip hop, jazz, tap, ballet at Summit Dance. We attended many performances and competitions a.k.a. Dance recitals. It was always a pleasure to watch when he performed with competitive teams as usually he was the only boy and danced with upwards of 15 girls. My personal favorite was dancing to “The Devil went down to Georgia”.

There were also some memorable moments like the dance to “Taking Care of Business”. The show starts with four boys and guitars standing on top of suitcases jamming to the music. We noticed only three (3) boys when the music began, then shortly thereafter, LT shows up. Apparently he got caught up in a hot poker game while waiting in the back.......

Real passion is theatre, has been in countless plays from middle school (he played the lead in Fiddler on the Roof Tevye), high school, college and played an extra in the musical at the Guthrie Theatre (check out this theatre in Minneapolis), “A Christmas Carol”. In between Sunday afternoon performances, he convinced the assistant sound manager and lighting manager to allow him to propose on stage to his girlfriend, Amanda. Luke told Amanda he would show her the stage and when they got on stage the lights went down for 10 seconds and when they came back on Luke was on his knee and their favorite song was playing. Luke has a keen way of getting you into a situation where the only answer is yes.

He has also done a couple commercials, the most recent was at this past year’s Superbowl. If you blinked you eye during the commercial, you might miss seeing him. Lot’s of modeling and voice overs. Does a great impression of Robert DeNiro. Remember’s all the one liners from favorite movies i.e Jaws “We need a bigger boat”, etc.

Luke is a very nice person, great son, will have a bedside manner as a PA that most aspire to.

The champagne we are using for the “toast” is the same champagne served at Prince Harry & Meghan’s royal wedding “Champagne, Pol Roger, Épernay, FR” Perhaps we can weave in this royal connection as we have always said that Luke could play Prince Harry in the movie as he has some resemblance. For humor may want to say something about my friends getting on their phones and “verifying” that I am right about the champagne.

Amanda, fyi, is a very accomplished young lady. Luke met her in dance as she was one of the young girls that he lifted or twirled. I don’t want to say too much about her as I don’t want to take that away from her Dad. I would like to say something about her joining the family, I just don’t want to use the normal “I’ve gained another daughter or etc…..something different.

If you remember in the speech I gave about my daughter Alison, I spoke about how we all dream about various points in our lives. I will attach my final speech about her for inspiration and potential use in Luke’s.

I realize this may be longer than five (5) minutes so if it extends I will pay extra if need be.