Good evening!

On February 26th of this past winter I had a 7:00 am meeting at the Bay Cafe at Fishermans Terminal in Seattle with a young man. This young man told me how much in love with my daughter he was. He told me how he was prepared financially, emotionally and every way possible to share his life with her. He wanted to propose to her and asked for my blessing. I have known this young man for some time, I know of his character and sincerity. I know he is in love with my daughter and I gave him my blessing.

On that same morning I had another appointment forty five minutes after that first meeting. At 7:45 two blocks away from Fishermans Terminal at Starbucks on Dravus Street I sat down to meet with Ryan Somers. Ryan told me how much in love with Kevlyn he was. He told me how he was prepared financially, emotionally and every way possible to share his life with her. He wanted to propose to Kevlyn and asked for my blessing. I had known Ryan for almost five years at this point, I know of his character and sincerity. I know how much he loves Kevlyn so I gave him my blessing as well. Neither one of these young men knew that the other was going to propose.

Now you might be thinking wow that Kevlyn was popular and very busy! Well you are correct! There are a lot of pronouns that can be used to describe Kevlyn. Beautifull, intelligent, loving, funny, energetic, dependable. I could go on and on but the word that really jumps into my mind with Kevlyn is enthusiastic. Those of you that have spent time with her get this. Ever since she was a toddler and could stand on her own two feet it has been my pleasure to witness Kevlyn and her amazing wide eyed enthusiasm. Always ready and willing to go all in when something excited her.

I recall a time back in the early days of Ryan and Kevlyn’s relationship when Kevlyn enthusiastically decided she was going to do something. I knew I had no choice and that she would not be discouraged, there would be know stopping her. Ryan already knew it as well, it had not taken him long to learn that about Kevlyn. There was a brief moment that lasted about a half second when my eyes met Ryans in an exchange that said “here we go, may as well enjoy the ride because we don’t have a chance of holding Kevlyn back!”

I think it’s this amazing enthusiasm that separates her from others, Kevlyn turns any event or task into something that is fun and exciting with her enthusiasm. It’s what helped separate her in the classroom and in the swimming pool at Seattle University. Her dedication and amazing enthusiasm put her on the Deans list, she was the Captain and holder of Seattle University swimming records and she qualified and competed in the Olympic Trials in Omaha in 2012. I really love Kevlyn’s energy and enthusiasm but it was in that moment, that half second glance with Ryan that I realized it was also something he was drawn to. Later as I came to know Ryan more I realized that this amazing enthusiasm was also a trait that he had and they shared.

Susan and I met Ryan for the first time in the spring of 2010 at a going away party at Matt and Connie Browns for one of their daughters, our niece Stephanie. Both Susan and I both felt from that first meeting that Ryan was a great person and we were happy that Kevlyn was spending time with him. Of coarse Ryan being a baseball player was icing on the cake. As time went on this first impression proved to be spot on. Ryan fit in immediately like a longtime member of our family.

We started to bump into Ryans parents John and Beth at Seattle University baseball games and we could see where Ryan got it from. Character, dedication and enthusiasm saw Ryan play division one baseball for five years as a scholarship student athlete. He was also the team Captain, a leader on and off the field and a tremendous roll model for the younger players coming in. He also excelled in the classroom graduating Cum Lade. Ryan helped pioneer and was a member of the first class to earn an MBA at Seattle University.

The preparation and planning Ryan puts into everything with his life is amazing. Ryan was planning to propose to Kevlyn on their five year anniversary. He secretly flew his parents John and Beth from New York to Seattle. Secretly had Susan and I meet with John and Beth at the Cactus restaurant on Alki Beach at a designated time. Then Ryan proposed to Kevlyn at one of their favorite locations, on Alki Beach. Afterward he brought Kevlyn into their favorite restaurant, the Cactus at Alki Beach where we were waiting to surprise her and begin the celebration. And just in case this wasn’t enough after that we went back to Kevlyn’s apartment were Ryan had another surprise, a party with some of their closest friends. This was a proposal that lasted the entire day. Now that is love.

While selecting a wedding day the two of you thought to include my father in your plans and wanted to have grandpa be a part of this special day. If my father were still with us he would be 92. Today is his birthday.

Ryan and Kevlyn you have so many wonderful things in common. Susan and I and everyone here sees the love you have for each other and the consideration, respect and love you have for your families and friends. You share this energetic passion and enthusiasm for life and we are so happy and excited for both of you now that your two lives have become one life together. We love you Kevlyn. Today before the eyes of God and with our hearts full of his love our family has grown again, today Susan and I have another son and our sons and daughters have another brother, we love you Ryan.

To Ryan and Kevlyn Somers!