Mario’s Wedding Speech

Welcome everyone and thank you for joining Mario and Courtney and beautiful baby Gia, for their very special day. I feel so honored to be standing here on this beautiful beach honoring this beautiful couple….(can you believe the setting we are in now….no couple deserves it more than Mario and Courtney )

I also want to personally thank Mario and Courtney for picking this destination wedding….. being a father of 4 young ones I really appreciate being able to look cool and bring my family here and disguise it both as a Christmas present / family vacation. (pause)

For those of you who don’t know me, my name is Kailee Wong… and I am honored to be Mario’s best man and brother! Technically I am his brother-in-law, as I married his sister (my beautiful bride Marissa) 11 years ago.

But for me the label brother-in-law doesn’t quite fit because of the love and appreciation I have for him and how he has become such an important part of our family’s life. See I am one of those people that Marissa, and Mario, lovingly remind me of having OCS (only child syndrome) because I am an “only child.”

Growing up as a kid all I ever wanted was a brother….and the biggest reason I wanted a brother is to have someone to play with…someone to play sports with, someone to have adventures with, and someone to compete against. And From the first time I met Mario and played in arguably the worst basketball game ever played with he and his friends I learned that having a brother was everything I ever dreamed for and at the time I had no idea how much more there was.

See, competition has driven most of my life, so I was relieved when I was introduced to the Lopez family over 13 years ago and quickly learned that no matter how competitive I was…..there was always someone (as I point to Mario) who wanted to win just a little bit more.

But no matter how competitive the game became….or whatever rules were strategically omitted for the sake of winning, one thing that never changed is that Mario is and has always been a great brother.

From the moment I met my bride Marissa, it was clear that much of what defined her as a person was the relationship that she shared with her brother. Mario has always been the kind of brother who always looked out for Marissa, making sure she was doing ok, and trying to see if there was anything that would make her just a little bit happier. Mario has created a feeling of security for Marissa because she knew that he would always be there for her and as My brother he has always been there for me to. He is the kind of brother or sibling that Marissa and I are trying to raise our children to become. (\*\*the relationship that they have is the one that I hope our children have)

No matter how successful Mario has become or how busy he gets, he is still the same person….a big kid that always puts family first.

Things I have learned from Mario

-there is nothing wrong with having a meal an hour before a big a meal because it is like a warm up

-no matter what type of big meal you sit down to whether it is sushi, Italian, Mexican, or thanksgiving dinner….always just throw up your arms and say “when in rome” and that totally justifies gluttony that is about to occur

-when playing board games with Mario…..just because a rule isn’t in the rules book that doesn’t automatically mean it is not a rule that you are going to be playing by.a

-when throwing a party….it doesn’t matter what theme it is….you gotta play 80’s definetly 80’s.

-To never give up…no matter what their record is….Mario still is always convinced the Chargers can win the Superbowl.

-Even though he loves and adores Courtney and the fact that she is from Pittsburg he still blames being from Pittsburg as the reason she doesn’t like sushi.

So Courtney (From Pittsburg) is a beautiful, witty and talented woman who does-- and always has-- kept Mario on his toes. From their first date that didn’t go very well to the stalking tactics Mario had to employ in order to get a second one…Courtney has always been very much Mario’s equal. And, that’s what makes this relationship work so well. They know each other well, they understand what works between them, and they have created a family to share a very special life.

Courtney (looking at her), I have known Mario for 13 years and I want to say from the moment he met you, you captured his heart and he got serious with you….fast. Somehow, he knew. He knew you were the one for him and he was ready to move to the next level in life and that you were the perfect partner for the journey. As long as I have known him I have never seen him happier and so excited about his future….since he has met you. He beams whenever he talks about Gia (gigi manos ) your beautiful daughter, when he talks about you as family, and when he talks about you as a wife and baby mama.

On behalf of Mario and Courtney, I would like to thank all of the guests here for sharing in this special day. I wish you both all the happiness in the world and may your love endure the good times and bad, building your marriage into a force that even Hollywood can’t mess with. If you would….let’s all please stand and raise your glasses, here’s to the new Mr. and Mrs. Mario Lopez. Salud!