I am Richard Jones, the father of the Bride.

Kristen is a wonderful, smart, generous, funny and accomplished young lady. I have watched her grow from a tiny baby in my arms to my precious daddy’s girl to an accomplished scholar successful career woman and now, today, a beautiful bride. She has found a man whom we have come to know and love as exceptionally kind, intelligent, thoughtful, strong, adventurous and brave. I am honored to welcome him into our family.

Jim and Cindy Meyer, you raised a fine son. Its an honor to welcome you into our family and to celebrate with you here today.

**Joke**

Mike is a very fine man. before he asked Kristen to marry him he was thoughtful and respectful enough to ask for my permission. I deeply appreciate this gesture. I had one question for Mike before I could give him my blessing, however. I asked him if he thought he could support a family. He told me that he could easily take care of he and Kristen but that unfortunately Claudia and I were on our own.

**A very fitting Setting for a Wedding today:**

I hope that you agree with me that this is a very fitting setting for today’s wedding. Isn’t this vineyard beautiful? Wine has been a part of our history for over 7,000 years. It’s origins are traced back to ancient China and the Middle East. The production of wine and its transportation accompanied the advancement of all of the ancient empires and civilizations in history. It was consumed by the Greeks, the Romans the Jews and the Christians. In fact, the very first miracle performed by Jesus and recorded in the bible involved wine and took place at a wedding celebration just like this one. When the host found that the celebration was running out of wine, Jesus’ mother insisted that he do something to help. It was then that Jesus, somewhat reluctantly, is recorded as changing water into wine.

**Welcome and Congratulations**

On Behalf of Claudia and Myself I welcome you all to this celebration. We are blessed to have so many friends and family here with us today. We are especially thankful that Kristen’s grandmother, 93 years young, is here to celebrate with us. People have traveled here from all over the county and the world. Susan and Colin Basterfield have come from New Zealand to celebrate with us today. It is a testament to the love and support Mike and Kristen can expect through out their lives together as husband and wife. I want to take a short moment to especially thank my nephew Scott and his lovely wife Hillah along with their family for coming. You see, after many years of hard work, Scott graduated earlier today from the doctorate program at UCLA with his PHD in Archieology. Please join me in congratulating Scott.

Several years ago, Claudia and I were lucky enough to visit Scott on one of his excavation trips to Anacapa Island where he was doing a field study on the Chumash. Among other things, Doctor Sunell is truly an expert on our local Chumash indians. Scott knows about everything Chumash from the ancient construction techniques they used to build their boats to the odds of winning a new Lexus at the casino this week.

**Special thanks:**

I want to take a moment to give special thanks to my beautiful wife, for her months of hard work in planning and putting this day together. There are literally hundreds of details necessary to make today possible. Please join me in thanking Claudia.

Claudia was assisted by many people including, Kristen and her sisters, Aubrey and Amie and by Mike’s Mother and Cindy Meyer. We thank you all.

I also wish to acknowledge the wonderful job that the wedding party did in making this special day so incredible and want to particularly acknowledge the children, Colton & Elin Brown, Beau, Brody and Wyatt Neill and Kyle, Jake and Luke Johnson.

**Wedding message from president Trump**

We are also very honored today to be in receipt of a special wedding message from the Office of the President of the United States, in Washington DC. I will read it for you now:

“Congratulations on your wedding. We join your family and friends in celebrating this joyous occasion and your love and commitment to one another,” “May your hearts grow fonder and your love deeper each day, and may God continue to bless your life together.”

President Donald J. Trump and First Lady of the United States Milania Trump

**Moment of Silence and Reflection**

Finally, I think it is appropriate that we all share in a brief moment of silence and reflection as we remember those family members who have gone before us and are unable to be with us here today. We recall Kristen’s grandfather, Robert Ewing Jones, her aunt Jennifer Wentz, Grandfather Joseph Bende, Grandmother Margaret Bende and cousin Tom Brandt.

silence

And now, please fill your glass, stand and join me in congratulating Mike and Kristen Meyer with a very special wedding toast.