

Good afternoon everyone,

Most here know me but for the few I haven't met I'm Russ the proud father of the stunning bride. I'd like to begin by thanking everyone for coming to celebrate the joining of this wonderful couple.

Before I start speaking about what a wonderful experience it was raising Ivy and seeing her become the lady we see today. I'd like to acknowledge the grooms parents Jason and Kathy. I tend to be a polite and friendly man but also somewhat antisocial. I'd be lying if I were to say we've gotten to know each other extremely well in our few conversations. Although I think I've gotten to know you both by spending time with your son and observing all the positive changes in Ivy.

Jason and Kathy the job you have done raising this terrific young man speaks for itself. Konner is an absolute Gem and I'm so happy that Konner and Ivy found each other. I think every father worries that their daughter won't find a good man to marry and spend their life with. Konner has eliminated that fear from me. Konner is a honest, confident, fearless man. He is patient, respectful and extremely generous almost selfless. I have witnessed his classy mannerisms countless times from the way he always comes to the door or waits outside his vehicle to pick up Ivy even years after we met. To opening doors, seating Ivy at restaurants or even racing to the tanning salon on a moments notice to chase away a creep that got Ivy spooked. Konner is better then anyone at cheering Ivy up when she's sad or reassuring her when she's anxious. I could go on and on but I think you get the gist of it. I just want you both to know that I'm truly grateful that you raised this incredible young man.

I'm also grateful to have been blessed with my beautiful wife Kim. Now it's obvious to anyone who meets my family that my daughters were blessed with my wife's beauty Thank the good lord, but Kim brought much more then that. Along with all daily work involved with raising children while I often worked long hours. My wife found time to teach Ivy to be bilingual, speaking, reading and writing a second language. She taught Ivy the importance of caring and respecting family. Then of course she took on the difficult task of being the disciplinary parent. Our daughters learned quickly that a few simple tears could quell any type of discipline their father was trying to hand down. She did all this while also running her own business. Kim is a hard working dedicated mother to her children and I can't thank her enough.

Ivy my eldest daughter this beautiful soul that I and my wife Kim were blessed by the Lord with the privilege of raising. I spent considerable time thinking about how to sum up 23 wonderful years of my life with you to just a couple minutes and realized how difficult this was going to be. I thought of mentioning stories camping, or gymnastics meets or vacations, weekend spent rough housing and watching your favorite Disney movies over and over again. I thought about the college scouting trips or being so proud of my pretty daughter cheerleading. Then I thought I could speak about how now I truly understands what it means to give away your daughter. Even trusting and knowing how capable Konner is. What it's like to let go of something so precious to me. It was emotional just thinking about it I new I wouldn't be able to hold it together speaking. I soon noticed that I could boil it down to one word, pride, now Ivy calls my pride a sin and she's probably right but I can't help it. I hope God forgives me for taking his credit for her. When I became a young father I simplified things best I could I wanted my daughters to do better then I and accomplish feats I did not. I figured that meant I did a good job as a father. So I was so proud when Ivy was better behaved then I was, did much better in school, formed a close bond with Jesus, was such a good and almost motherly big sister to Rachael. I was proud to see her moral and political leanings change over the years. When Ivy was young I knew everything, she would parrot my stance on any issue then I noticed questioning me on a particular belief to one day when I mentioned that I consider my

self a constitutionalist libertarian she corrected me and said that's another way of saying conservative coward, it stung a little but I was still so proud. My little impressionable girl was a smart thoughtful young woman. I was so proud to see Ivy graduate from college to become a nurse a long family tradition. As I reminisced over the last 23 years with Ivy as my daughter I couldn't think of anything but the pride and joy you brought me. I thought a lot trying to come up with a bad memory and the only thing that came to mind was the day we almost lost you. You were my premature daughter delivered by emergency c-section. The first time I saw you was heart wrenching you were a grey, small and lifeless baby. I remember being so relieved when the doctors and nurses had you crying and I watched your color change. From your first breath on you have brought your father only happiness. Your gone from my little baby to an amazing young women, also my friend and confidant.

Please raise your glass to toast this wonderful couple. To no more burdening yourself with pleasing your fathers high expectations of you. You have already made me and your mom so proud. I'd like you and your new husband to focus on each other and know your dad loves you so much and will always be proud of the woman you've become.