

Father of the Groom Rehearsal Dinner Speeches

By

John Wilson



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SPEECH 1

I want to offer my warmest greetings to all of the wonderful friends and family members who have gathered here today for the wonderful and momentous occasion of my son {Groom}'s (pause for comedic effect)...rehearsal dinner. That's right, this is not the wedding or even the wedding dinner, it's the darned rehearsal dinner. We haven't even pulled out the prime rib and those really expensive silk linens yet, and I haven't even put on that tight, itchy tux that the wife says I have to wear. So why in the heck do I have to stand up and give a speech?! (pause for laughter)

(Tone grows serious) I'll tell you why I am more than pleased to stand up and give a speech, not only at my son's wedding reception, but at his rehearsal dinner as well. Actually I have several reasons to speak to you here today; the first and most important of which is that my son {Groom} is a simply amazing young man; one whose praises I will gladly sing at every opportunity. Indeed, my son is the kind of near perfect person who earns and warrants many kind words. (Pauses, looks around uncomfortably) OK I said near perfect; you should have seen the state and condition of his room at home during his teen years—oy! (Pause for laughter)

Seriously though Folks, you simply could not ask for a better son than {Groom}. He is kind, intelligent, successful, and easily the second funniest one at the dinner table. Through the years he always has given me plenty of reasons to boast about him. And as my wife, other family members and countless friends who have ever tried to get me to shut up can attest (pause for laughter), I do tend to seize every occasion to brag about my son.

{Groom} has a heart of gold and is always willing to help those in need. Endlessly kind and charitable, he is the type of person who goes out of his way to help anyone in need; whether it is a dear friend or loved one in need of a few bucks—I promise, Son, I'll pay you back before the ceremony tomorrow! (pauses for laughter)—or a charitable organization in need of a larger donation or even a steady, reliable volunteer, one who truly puts his heart into his efforts. They couldn't do better than my genuine sweetheart of a son.

Father of the Groom Rehearsal Dinner Speeches

{Groom} is also a very bright young man; one who excelled at school and who has proven himself to be a brilliant young businessman. I stand in great admiration of his achievements and accomplishments; I would say he's a chip off the old block, but I think he's done me one better. Just don't tell him I said that (Pauses for laughter). Oops, he's here, so he must have heard me. Drat it. We'll never be able to live with him now. (Pauses for laughter)

Ah, but I guess we won't have to—from this point forward, {Groom} is going to be living with the wonderful, beautiful woman he is set to marry tomorrow. {Bride} is a true find, a gem of a woman who equals my son in every way. You know, I used to find it so sappy when a person claimed to find their 'other half' in their mate— (adding quickly) although I certainly did, when I met {Mother of the Groom}! (Pauses for laughter) And, once again, my son just has to copy everything I do (pauses for light, brief laughter); he, too, has found the woman of his dreams in {BRIDE}.

Indeed, my son's other half is every bit as smart, sweet, funny and successful as he is. And they make such a striking pair that the little plastic couple that was set to stand on their wedding cake just stormed off in a fit of jealousy! (Pauses for laughter) I really can't say enough about how well suited these two are—not only for each other, but for our entire family.

We always have been proud to count {Groom} as one of our own; and to count the many reasons that we love him. Yet when it comes to talking about the many ways that his wife to be truly equals his greatness, we very simply lose count. So instead of continuing to extol their virtues, I'll shut up now and let them take the stage. We love you, {Bride} and {Groom}.

SPEECH 2

Friends and family members, and anyone who strayed in to score a free dinner (pause for laughter), I would like to welcome you most warmly to my son's rehearsal dinner.

You know, it seems fitting that I am a guest speaker at my son's rehearsal dinner, as he is definitely the type of person who believes that practice makes perfect. Indeed, {GROOM} is the kind of person who probably would 'rehearse' a drink of water. (pause for laughter) He was always the person who studied hard for every test, practiced at the gym before every ballgame, prepared for every job interview.

Father of the Groom Rehearsal Dinner Speeches

And when it came to wooing the sweet, lovely {BRIDE}, his wonderful wife to be, {GROOM} has been particularly dedicated and unrelenting—which is hopefully not the only reason she agreed to marry him. (Pause for laughter) Seriously folks, you should have seen how he painstakingly rehearsed his first attempts to start a conversation with her, to ask her out on a date, and finally to propose to her. He may also have rehearsed the first kiss, but I for one was pleased I wasn't privy to that particular rehearsal (pause for laughter).

My son shows a strong commitment to everything he does; and furthermore, to everyone he loves. And when one meets {BRIDE}, it is easy to see why he was so tenderly relentless in his romantic pursuit of her. This woman is stunningly beautiful, even as she sits here stuffing her face at her rehearsal dinner. (Pauses for laughter) Ah, but her glorious outside does not even begin to reflect the true extent of her beauty.

{BRIDE} is a warm, sweet woman and a true intellect to boot. She shows a sharp wit and impeccable fashion sense that make her the envy of everyone; and believe me when I tell you that no one admires her more than my son--which is why he puts so much thought and consideration into their relationship.

And on today, the day of his rehearsal dinner, I have a simple and well-intended message for my son: "Would you relax already?!" (Pause for laughter) This woman is madly in love with you; and although it's nice that you had this wedding rehearsal, and that you are sharing this wonderful dinner with all of your friends and family (and those few stragglers that I mentioned earlier) (Pauses for laughter), it is very obvious to me at least that you do not have to 'practice' your love.

It is obvious that you two kids are mad about each other; and, for that matter, why shouldn't you be? You are the mirror of your fabulous wife. You, too, are funny, wise, kind, and it's also quite obvious that you inherited your good looks (dramatic pause)—from your mother. (Pauses for laughter) You and {BRIDE} make the perfect couple, one who will make a perfect home and perfect children. I'm sure that your marriage will come just as easily to you as your courtship did. You always can tell when two people are having a lot of fun with each other; and let me tell you, {BRIDE} and {GROOM}, the sound of your laughter is music to the ears of your friends and family. We rejoice in the fact that you rejoice in each other, that you treasure and revel in one another's company.

Father of the Groom Rehearsal Dinner Speeches

You two are proof that, even in this cynical day and age, you can find true love and make it work—with just a little practice. So with that in mind, I have a second piece of advice for you: Long after this rehearsal dinner is done, feel free to go ahead and keep rehearsing.

Practice kissing each and every day; practice saying “I love you.” Practice apologizing when you’ve done something wrong (Yep Son, there’s a reason I’m looking directly at you as I say that) (pause for laughter), and making up after you have discussed and resolved the issue. Make every meal a ‘rehearsal dinner,’ a meal in which—much like you are tonight—you take the time to stare lovingly at each other, kiss, laugh, feed each other obscene amounts of cake (pause for laughter); now and always, take the time to love and enjoy each other—and the very special union you have created.

SPEECH 3

I’d like to welcome all of our friends and family to this very special occasion: the eve of my son’s wedding to a very special woman.

I know that it’s not unusual for brides to cry at weddings, or for their mothers to weep at the reception; as they watch their son or daughter take flight, not only for a honeymoon but for a whole new and very wonderful life. Is it OK, then, for a dad to shed a tear or two at the rehearsal dinner?

And no, I’m not crying because I just got the bill for the wedding (pause for laughter). Far from it, my tears are nothing more than joyful symbols of the deep emotion I feel this day; of the great happiness that I feel as I sense the incredible good fortune that has touched my son’s life.

My son {GROOM} is my hero; one of the best people I’ve ever known. OK OK, he got it all from his mom (pause for laughter); yet that doesn’t change the fact that my son is kind, intelligent, creative, talented, successful and ridiculously good looking (pulls himself up, poses)—of course, I’d like to think that he got that last trait from both his parents. (pause for laughter) And if getting all of those great assets wasn’t enough good fortune, he also got the perfect women; hey, come to think of it, do you think there’s a connection? (pause for laughter)

{BRIDE} is sweet, bright, beautiful, and always stands on her own two feet—that is, when my smitten son is not sweeping her off said feet (pause for laughter). I have

Father of the Groom Rehearsal Dinner Speeches

to say that I've never seen a more romantic couple; they are obviously very much in love, and I do indeed want to shed a few tears as I think about the wonderful relationship that they've found and cultivated.

I shed a few more as I contemplate the sure to be magnificent home and family that these two are sure to create. Can you imagine how smart and beautiful their children will be? And of course that's speaking from the point of view of a totally objective grandpa; one who is sure not to shower the kids with presents at every available opportunity, be it Christmas, their birthdays, or Arbor Day (pause for laughter).

Seriously though, Folks, I do get genuinely misty eyed when I think about how long my dear son waited to find his other half: the woman with whom he could share his love and friendship, his joys and sorrows, his victories and dilemmas. These two make a wonderful team; one that will score a winning record throughout the course of their married life.

Hey, leave it to a dad to turn everything into a sports analogy (pause for laughter). Also leave it to a dad to get all emotional when he considers how his son's life is about to change—and for the better. He is about to become a husband; to assume one of the greatest responsibilities and most incredible joys that life can offer. I hope that my tears will not distress my son and my future daughter in law, but that they instead rain upon them, to grow and nurture their love. I hope that my tears will express my great love for them, and help me to convey my fondest wishes for their future together, as husband and wife.

They say that, in this day and age, it's perfectly OK for a man to cry; I sure hope so, because I seriously am about to pool up right now. (pause for laughter) On second thought, though, instead of crying, I think I'll smile instead. I'll beam with pride as I think of the wonderful life that my beloved son has made for himself; a life that is about to get even better with the addition of the perfect wife. I'll grin with glee as I contemplate all the fun they'll have together; and I'll just barely manage a teary eyed 'happy face' as I consider the great contentment that their life will bring them. We love you, {GROOM} and {BRIDE}.

SPEECH 4

I'd like to welcome all of our friends and family members to this joyous occasion; the occasion of my son's wedding.

Father of the Groom Rehearsal Dinner Speeches

It's fitting that I now stand beside my dear son {GROOM} at this, his wedding rehearsal dinner; and that I'll sit behind him tomorrow as he marries the woman of his dreams. Indeed, I've had the opportunity—and, I daresay, the sheer pleasure—of being there to witness every major milestone in my son's life: his first birthday, his first day of school, his first ballgame, his first date, his high school graduation, his college enhancement, his first day of work. And now I have the unique honor of bearing witness to the first day of the rest of his life; a life he is set to share with a most amazing woman.

{BRIDE} is a one of a kind human being who is bright, sweet, caring, successful, and beautiful. I could not have selected a better mate for my son; or, for that matter, a better addition to my family.

Indeed, {BRIDE} is ideal for my son because she is his equal in every way. As I mentioned earlier, I have witnessed his greatest milestones—and I have seen him face these significant life landmarks with incredible talent, grace and character. I am proud to say that my son is an outstanding human being in every sense. He is intelligent, kind, successful, charming, charitable; he is the kind of human being that everyone admires, including his father and especially his dear wife to be. Indeed, {BRIDE} and {GROOM} are members of a mutual admiration society; one that was founded the day they met, and that will claim its concrete organizational status and charter tomorrow—the day of their wedding

I have every faith that these two will stand by each other through good times and bad; just as they have throughout the course of their relationship. I know that {BRIDE} will always be there for my son; and, just like me, that she will rejoice in his every victory, success and life landmark. And similarly, that he will always be there for her. My son is a good person who honors his commitments; just as important, he is very obviously a man in love.

It is for this reason that I know he will make a good husband for {BRIDE}; that they will make the perfect couple. And my wife {MOTHER OF THE GROOM} and I look forward to seeing my son achieve a lot more in the way of significant milestones; this time with a strong and helpful—not to mention lovely—partner at his side.

I can just see it all now. The beautiful children and grandchildren they will have, the wonderful home they'll build together, the productive and successful work projects on which they will collaborate, the exotic vacations that they will share.

Father of the Groom Rehearsal Dinner Speeches

I just can't wait to be there for their housewarming party, their first anniversary fest, their baby shower; and, God willing, my wife and I also will be there to acknowledge the occasion of their 25th anniversary and the birth of their grandchildren. (looks at wife with a wry grin) Feel old yet, Honey? (pause for laughter)

Speaking of my wife, she and I also have shared an amazing relationship through the years; a highlight of which was the birth of this amazing person that we honor today.

Indeed, as I see it, tomorrow we will honor {BRIDE} and {GROOM} on the occasion of their wedding; it is then that we will see them forever joined in the bonds of holy matrimony. Today, however, I'd like to take the opportunity to honor my son as he is poised to mark yet another significant and meaningful accomplishment in his life. (looks to his son) Son, I can't express to you how very proud I am of you today. In marrying this woman, you have scored another home run, another A plus, another worthy project, another successful venture. And the 'hot date' you stand to make tomorrow is destined to last you the rest of your life.

{BRIDE} and {GROOM}, best of luck tomorrow and always. We love you!

SPEECH 5

On this blessed day I would like to welcome everyone to the grand occasion of my son's wedding; and to the yummy meal that is sure to comprise his rehearsal dinner. (pause for laughter)

I'll shut up shortly so you can eat; oh, who am I kidding, I'll shut myself up by stuffing my own face at this dinner, which has been so carefully and lovingly prepared. And in a way, I see many similarities between this meal and the special relationship that my son {GROOM} and his wife to be {BRIDE} have shared throughout the years.

Like this meal that we are about to share, my son and his bride have cooked up a truly winning and totally sumptuous relationship. They started out with the basic ingredients of caring, friendship and mutual respect, blending these carefully for quite some time. Then they tossed a healthy pinch of love and a dash of passion into the mix, bringing their recipe to a boil. If you want to know just how hot it gets, in fact, just come to our family home and join his mother {MOM OF THE

Father of the Groom Rehearsal Dinner Speeches

GROOM} and me in turning our heads respectfully away as these two lock lips—endlessly and repeatedly. (Pause for laughter) You think I’m kidding, believe me I’m not. (Pause for laughter) At all. (Pause for laughter)

To make sure that their ‘feast of love’ remains fresh and tasty, {BRIDE} and {GROOM} are constantly throwing in hearty helpings of humor, kindness, understanding and resilience. They have weathered many a storm during the course of their relationship, doing so with lots of laugh, love, and endless compassion.

Indeed, their dating years have served as a delightful appetizer that the entire family has enjoyed. My wife and I have greatly enjoyed welcoming {BRIDE}, our new daughter, to our family. We have savored every delicious moment with this wonderful and very happy couple; just as we will sit at their side to enjoy this meal here today.

So now tomorrow comes the main course: the day when the mix solidifies and comes together as it is baked into a lasting union. I just know that {BRIDE} and {GROOM} will nourish and fortify their love the moment they join hands, exchange rings, and say “I do.” It is in that moment that their recipe will be complete, that their love will come to a full boil; blending perfectly to make an ideal meal, just like the one we’ll have here today.

{BRIDE} and {GROOM} may be wondering just what comes after the main course (dramatic pause). Well judging from our menu we’ll be having a choice of (mention two dessert options listed on the rehearsal dinner menu)—yummo! (Pause for laughter) No no no, I’m talking about what my dear son and his wife have in store for their life together: the sumptuous dessert called marriage. (looks directly at the bride and groom) {BRIDE} and {GROOM}, I know that the future holds a multitude of joys and delights for you as a couple; and no, I’m not just talking about the honeymoon—which is costing us a lot, by the way (pause for laughter).

What I am referring to are the many happy years that you are sure to share; years filled with laughter and love. You will add many more ingredients to your original recipe, in the form of many precious memories; beautiful life stories that tell the tale of romantic dates and extended vacations, successful business projects and fruitful financial endeavors, and of course the establishment of your first home.

Father of the Groom Rehearsal Dinner Speeches

Eventually you will return to the kitchen to make up some more delightful recipes: namely, the many children that will bless your marriage. (Pauses, looks at bride) Now I don't mean all that many {BRIDE}, please don't pass out at your own wedding rehearsal dinner. (pause for laughter, then grow serious). I hope you two realize just how lucky you are; how blessed you are to have been nourished with such a truly amazing love.

I hope that you two enjoy today's rehearsal dinner, and tomorrow's wedding. Then, though, you really got to 'get cooking'; to get started on your amazing life.

SPEECH 6

Welcome one and all to the wedding experience of my dear son {GROOM} and {BRIDE}, his beautiful wife to be. I am so happy to see you all here at the rehearsal dinner that kicks off this sure to be wonderful event; and I look forward to seeing you tomorrow, the grand and exalted day of their wedding.

Yet even as I feel great joy in marking the occasion of my son's wedding, I also must admit to a bit of sadness as well. Not the tragic sadness that one feels at a time of loss; but rather the sweetened sadness that one feels when they witness a change of life.

Tomorrow, my friends, {GROOM} will morph from my boy to {BRIDE}'s husband. Oh, he will always be my son; and, as with all members of my family, I will always be there to love and advise him. In a way he will always be my little boy—and, of course, his mother's as well.

At the same time, both {MOTHER OF THE GROOM} and I must let him go tomorrow, so he can start a new life with the woman of his dreams. Of course I feel just a bit of sadness at this major life change. Of course I'll miss the sound of {GROOM}'s laughter in our home, the even tone of his step on our stairs (pause, roll eyes), and the not so soothing blare of his stereo as it resounds throughout our house. (pause for laughter) I know that, after tomorrow's ceremony, our lives will be forever changed.

So while I do feel a bit of melancholy that a chapter of our life is coming to an end, I also rejoice and take comfort in the fact that a new one is about to begin. {BRIDE} and {GROOM}, I am confident that your lives together will be filled with happiness,

Father of the Groom Rehearsal Dinner Speeches

love and success; emotions that you will share, not only with one another, but with our new combined family.

Indeed, when you say “I do” tomorrow, you will be brightening and refreshing our lives and life story; not to mention introducing many bright and interesting new characters to the mix. This growing—and very loving—cast will include the members of {BRIDE}'s family, who we welcome with open arms into our own. And {BRIDE'S MOM} and {BRIDE'S FATHER}, we know that you will join us in welcoming the beautiful, adorable grandchildren who will complete our family unit.

Indeed, I bask in the joy and the sheer excitement of our new and combined family; and as this chapter in our life's story comes to an end, I know that many more await us in the future. So while I admit to being a thoughtful and contemplative father of the groom today, I am also a joyful one.

And why shouldn't I be? Before I had an amazing family; now I have an astounding one. Our house, as large, homey and beautiful as it is, could not contain all of the love that has been born from this extended family; so {BRIDE} and {GROOM} had to go off and build a home all their own.

In this magical home place, ladies and gentlemen, they will build—not only the house itself—but a wonderful family of their own. {BRIDE} and {GROOM} will morph from devoted children to the heads of their own household. They will experience firsthand the same type of complete and utter joy that they have brought to their parents for so long, having children of their own and standing back to watch as they mark their own life milestones. (softly, thoughtfully) And yes, someday, my son will get to witness the most amazing event, the same one that I witness today. He will get to behold the wedding of his offspring; and I can only hope that his speech will be almost as good as mine. (pause for laughter).

No, seriously; I can only hope that he will feel the overwhelming joy that I feel today, as I see my little boy grow into a great man—and a sure to be unbelievable husband. Please join me in congratulating {BRIDE} and {GROOM}.

SPEECH 7

So after months and months of endless wedding planning, and all of the meetings, bills and road trips that come as part and parcel of this process, we finally arrive at

Father of the Groom Rehearsal Dinner Speeches

the eve of the big day; that momentous event known as the rehearsal dinner (look to Mother of the Groom) Can I just sit down and eat now? (pause for laughter and wife's embarrassed reaction☺) No, I have to give a speech first? (sighs) Oh OK; talk about having to sing for my supper. (Pause for laughter)

Seriously Folks, I would like to welcome you to the occasion of my son's wedding. And I would like to tell you just a bit about the young man who has warranted all of this time, planning and expense. (pause briefly for light laughter)

My son {GROOM} is more than worth every second and every penny that has been invested in this wedding; and for a variety of reasons. If I named them all, in fact, we would be here all day and I'd never get to eat—not that this is important to me. (pause for laughter) So I'll just go in to a few of the stellar characteristics that make him very special.

{GROOM} is a magnificent young man. He is sweet, intelligent, giving, loyal, successful; just like his mother and father. He is also good looking (tugs at shirt collar, delivers next line sheepishly)—just like his mother. (Pause for laughter) He is, in short, everything that a mother and father would want in a son.

...and, for that matter, everything that a young lady would want in a husband. (looks at BRIDE) {BRIDE} we sure hope you agree. As mentioned we have spent a lot on this wedding, so it would be kinda nice if you could grace us with your presence tomorrow. (pause for laughter) No need to answer right away, just think on it a bit. (Pause for laughter...(returning gaze to audience) No, I have every confidence that {BRIDE} will indeed show up tomorrow, and for two reasons: 1. She loves my son very much. And she has great taste; as I said before, he is a winner. 2. He loves her just as much in return. And it's easy to see why.

Indeed, {BRIDE} is lovely, bright, sweet and prosperous. She has brought my son the gift of her love; and she has brought to our family the gift of herself. We welcome her with open arms into our fold; she is always welcome in our home, and we hope to visit hers just as often.

{BRIDE} also brings us two additional gifts, in the form of {MOTHER OF THE BRIDE} and {FATHER OF THE BRIDE}. These two wonderful people have become part of our extended family; and they, too, are always welcome in our home.

Father of the Groom Rehearsal Dinner Speeches

I know that, in the future, {GROOM} and {BRIDE} will bring many more precious presents to our combined family; in the form of memories, love, new experiences, and—of course—children. (to BRIDE and GROOM) No pressure or anything, Kids. (pause for laughter) No, we await all of the wonderful new things that you bring to our family; and in return, we have many things to offer you in return.

{BRIDE} and {GROOM}, today we offer you our unconditional love and respect. We hold you in our highest esteem, and we are so glad that you two wonderful people have found each other. We also offer you any help and support you will need on your road to happiness; somehow, though, I don't think you'll need too much help. You two have good heads on your shoulders; I trust that you will have the wisdom and reasoning to deal with any problems that come along, making your union happier and stronger as it grows and develops. I have further faith that you will make wonderful parents—you have the intellect, the caring, and—most importantly—four stellar role models! (Pause for laughter)

Lastly {BRIDE} and {GROOM}, we offer you this wonderful wedding experience; the chance to share your love—and this dinner—with all of your many loving family and friends. So let's eat already!

SPEECH 8

I would like to welcome everyone to the wedding rehearsal dinner of my son {GROOM} and my soon to be daughter in law {BRIDE}. And while this wedding marks one of the most important milestones in my son's life, what you saw here today was hardly his first rehearsal.

Indeed, as {GROOM}'s father I have witnessed many of his life rehearsals; I watched with loving caution the first time he rode a bike—and with loving terror a few minutes later, when he fell flat on his face (pause for laughter). I also watched him rehearse for many a school speech, play and presentation; and although he was a great student—and I as a proud papa was sure that he would score an Oscar nomination for his role in the (fill in the name of GROOM's elementary school here) Elementary School Christmas play—I have seen him stumble over a word or two during the course of his rehearsals.

Father of the Groom Rehearsal Dinner Speeches

Today, though, I couldn't help but notice that he did not stumble or waver at any point during the course of his wedding rehearsal. He seemed confident, sure of himself, and—most importantly—extremely happy and at ease.

This tells me two things: 1. My son has become a man; an intelligent, successful, confident and dignified man. 2. He is a man in love. He knows what he wants; and what he wants is a lifelong union with the beautiful, wonderful {BRIDE}.

Indeed, I don't think that these two will ever need to 'rehearse' their relationship; though they do seem to practice kissing and cuddling on an extremely frequent basis! (pause for laughter) They are two kids in love, that's for sure; but they are also two mature, intelligent, successful adults who carved out their own identities before finding the person who would share their magnificent lives.

I have watched with pride as my son excelled his way through school before mastering the business world; more importantly, though, I watched him grow from a wisecracking, fun loving kid to a mature and sensitive adult. He has grown into a great and admirable man; and I believe that when he met {BRIDE}, when she swept into his life with a beautiful flourish that clearly stole his breath, my son found his equal in more ways than one.

{BRIDE}, like {GROOM}, is bright, successful, kind, and truly has the Midas touch; every project she touches—whether it's professional, personal or philanthropic—turns to gold. And she makes my son feel like gold, which is also very important to me; especially as he treats her the same way, with his every word and deed.

In my eyes {BRIDE} and {GROOM} are perfect people who make a perfect couple; and they are destined to make a perfect home as well as perfect children. Am I starting to sound 'perfectly' gushy and 'perfectly' disgusting? (Pause for laughter) Forgive my verbal excesses, but I am sure as the friends and family members of {BRIDE} and {GROOM} you share my great enthusiasm and intense love for this dear young couple. And while I'm being all mushy and gushy, sorry Folks I just gotta say it: They're so cute! They are the cutest darned couple I've ever seen! (Pause for laughter, points accusingly at BRIDE and GROOM) Blast you two for being too cute and making the rest of us feel inferior! (Pause for laughter)

Seriously though, I know that you all join me in wishing {BRIDE} and {GROOM} all the luck in the world as they begin their life together; somehow, though, I don't think

Father of the Groom Rehearsal Dinner Speeches

they'll need luck, any more than they needed that rehearsal today. They have the intellect, genial natures, sound reasoning skills, and divine inner strength to weather any storm of any kind; more than that, they have each other. And that is all they truly need to make a successful, fruitful, and endlessly loving union.

{BRIDE} and {GROOM}, I can't tell you how very much I love and treasure you; both as people and as members of my family. I know you didn't need to rehearse your nuptials today; but by doing so, you allowed us all to share in a beautiful experience indeed. And now I can't wait for the wedding!

SPEECH 9

I would like to welcome you all to the wedding rehearsal dinner of my son {GROOM} and my soon to be daughter in law {BRIDE}. Tomorrow is sure to be the biggest day of their lives; a day that they are sure to celebrate, a day that we as their friends and family members will cherish and remember forever. (pauses meaningfully and smiles as crowd murmurs agreement)

Today, by contrast, is the day that stresses us out and drives us collectively crazy!!! (pauses for laughter) Admit it Folks, as we've all rushed around making last minute preparations today, we have been anything but blissful and serene. And I'm sure that more than a few of you held your collective breath during the rehearsal, as we all assumed our roles in the wedding and struggled to get them right; along with the duties that accompany those roles; duties that, for me at least, include stressing out, paying bills and going a little nutzoid! (Pause for laughter and probably murmurs of assent☺)

Yet now that we have gathered here for the rehearsal dinner, we can all take the welcome opportunity to exhale, relax, enjoy a good meal; and most importantly to sit back and admire the couple of the day, of the hour, of forever: {BRIDE} and {GROOM}. (looks at bride and groom) Kids, I can't tell you how proud I am of you, today and always. You are two fantastic people. Why? As any proud papa would, just let me count the ways....

My son and daughter-in-law are—to put it simply—perfect people who came together to make the perfect couple. They are, individually, bright, attractive, sweet, successful, and giving people. Together they are unbeatable; so flawless

Father of the Groom Rehearsal Dinner Speeches

that they make the rest of us look bad. Blast you two! (shakes fist at couple as guests laugh)

Seriously, though, this is one of those couples that we all sit back and admire; and that the rest of us seek to emulate. Now, my wife {GROOM'S MOTHER} and I also have an amazing marriage, and we hope that we have set a good example for {BRIDE} and {GROOM}. We know beyond a doubt that {BRIDE}'s parents, {MOTHER OF THE BRIDE} and {FATHER OF THE BRIDE} have set their own stellar example for these two, as they themselves are wonderful people who we are also proud to welcome to our family.

Yet even the four of us have to gaze in admiration at this special couple; these two magnificent people who were lucky enough to find each other.

As we sit and relax this evening over dinner, we allow {BRIDE} and {GROOM} to take the stage; and what a show it's going to be. Tomorrow we get to see {BRIDE} in a sure to be gorgeous gown, and my son is actually being cajoled into wearing a tux—can ya believe it?! (Pause for laughter) Soon we will get to see their first home, sure to be a beautiful place.

Then, or so my wife has told me—repeatedly, mind you (pause for laughter)—we should be expecting some grandchildren in the near future. If {GROOM'S MOTHER} has it her way, a lot of them! (pause for laughter) I can't wait to bounce those little cuties on my knee, telling them stories about their dad's school days and his early life. Most of all, though, I just plan to sit back and watch as they grow into wonderful, perfect people—just like their parents. I can't wait to see pictures of family vacations, and to be a part of their family holidays. I just can't wait to be a part of it all.

“It all” starts tomorrow, Folks, when we see {BRIDE} and {GROOM} join together in the holy bonds of wedlock. Are you excited? (Waits for affirmative response from crowd) I know my wife and I are; but not only for tomorrow, but for all the brilliant and beautiful tomorrows that come after that. Who knows what these wonderful kids have in store for us? Whatever it is, it stands to be just as amazing as they are. {BRIDE} and {GROOM}, we love you—so much.

SPEECH 10

I would like to welcome you all to the wedding rehearsal dinner of my dear son {GROOM} and his wonderful wife to be {BRIDE}. I am so pleased that all of our friends and family could join us for what is sure to be a spectacular wedding—and for all of the little things that come with it.

Indeed, if my own beautiful wife {MOTHER OF THE GROOM} and I have learned anything over the years, it's that—when it comes to marriage and family—it's the little things that count. And while {BRIDE} and {GROOM} will surely remember tomorrow's grand event, they are just as likely to remember their first date (I know I did—and how jittery my son was as he realized that he'd finally scored a date with the woman of his dreams—pause for laughter), their first dinner together in their own home, their first anniversary, and of course the first day that they bring their first bundle of joy home from the hospital, to join their family life. (looks at {GROOM}) And believe me Son, your mother is looking forward to that day just as much as you are—perhaps a great deal more! (pause for laughter)

As I'm sure another great couple here in our presence today, {FATHER OF THE BRIDE} and {MOTHER OF THE BRIDE} will tell you, it is really the little things that count. And when I see the great love and tenderness that passes between {BRIDE} and {GROOM}, I am witness to the 'little things' that form these gentle expressions. I see them kiss—A LOT (pause for laughter)—and hold hands on a regular basis, not to mention conduct quiet conversations and share their views and opinions with one another.

I love hearing what they have to say. These two kids are both intelligent, witty, insightful, and so much fun to be around. And they never run out of things to say to each other; that is, when they're not kissing. A LOT. (pause for laughter) Not only that but, I just gotta say it Folks, (points to {BRIDE} and {GROOM}), aren't they just the cutest couple you have ever seen? (pause for laughter) No, I'm serious, they are so cute it's annoying. (pausing)

They are also very, very much in love, which is why they are here today. And why we are here today, preparing to honor them upon the grand occasion of their wedding. {GROOM}'s mother {MOTHER OF THE GROOM} and I are so proud to

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celebrate this 'big thing' in their lives—as I'm sure {FATHER OF THE BRIDE} and {MOTHER OF THE BRIDE} are as well. And we anticipate with equal enthusiasm all of the little things that are sure to follow: all of the family dinners, holiday parties, trips and even short visits that make a family, a family.

{BRIDE} already has brought so much to our family, with her warmth, intellect and good humor. And while we welcome her tomorrow as an official member of our family unit, she has been 'one of us' for a long time; and her family has become part of ours. My wife in particular was overjoyed to learn that our clan was about to grow exponentially, without her having to go through all that painful childbirth stuff again (pause for laughter). Seriously, though, we are overjoyed to have all of these wonderful people as a part of our lives.

In the years to come, we wish nothing but peace, prosperity and of course progeny for these two great people—plus any other word—that-starts-with-a-p that they so desire, if they want penguins too, they shall have them! (pause for laughter) What I want them to have most, however, is a lifetime of love and happiness. I hope they savor every dinner, every dance, every kiss, every conversation, every shared joke. I hope they learn to treasure every last moment with each other, with their children, and with us—for while we plan to give them ample privacy as they settle into married life (Did you hear that, MOTHER OF THE GROOM?—pause for laughter), we hope they'll come to visit us often. We love them and wish them the best of luck.

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