

WEDDING REMARKS

June 27, 1992

You can't expect a government official, a happy and proud grandfather and the self-proclaimed family patron to keep silent on this joyous, once-in-a-lifetime occasion! However in the process, I'll try to remember that the man who rises to the occasion must know when to sit down.

You see, Susie to me represents the daughter I always wanted and needed. Along with being lovely, lively and intelligent, she is the only one in the entire family (besides me) who majored in communications and made a living in broadcasting ... she graduated from college magna cum laude and as many of you know, worked in TV sales in New York, Detroit and Los Angeles. I personally can't ascribe any inherited family traits for Susan's impressive college scholastic record.

I have to confess I was almost embarrassed when my university, Michigan State, honored me with an outstanding alumni award and "honorary doctor's degree -- The Dean of Communications after the ceremony said "Commissioner Quello, we were thinking of showing a transcript of your grades on a large screen to the communications college as an encouragement to mediocre students." Fortunately, President Emeritus John Hannah came to my rescue saying "Jim was too busy editing the college paper and working on the radio station." I admit that I learned more actually working on the college paper and radio station than I did in class.

So, Susie you are the No. 1 family college star all by yourself although the bright female side of the family, your mother, Dee, and your two grandmothers were anything but scholastic slouches in college.

But today on this great occasion we have more pertinent matters to address. We have many well deserved kudos to acknowledge. First and foremost a salute to Dee, Susan's lovely mother, Susan's best friend, lifelong supporter and the most important influence in her life. Secondly, a big salute to Dr. Bob Steiman, a caring responsible stepfather for his years of encouragement and support. Then, a special nod to my son, Dick, a super salesman, for squiring this beautiful smart daughter. As many of you know, there was an amicable divorce, at least as amicable as any divorce can be, and Dick enjoyed visiting rights and cordial relations with Susan for years. And congratulations to Susan's sister, Michelle, for her gracious comportment as maid of honor. Also, a salute to genial Mrs. Bob "Sis" Addy, her grandmother, for her years of wise counsel, baby sitting and understanding. Susan's Aunt Mary Lyn, and the entire wedding party all rate special salutes but time is limited.

However, of utmost importance to me personally -- the other grandmother, a fellow Michigan State alumnus, fashion designer, world traveler and incidentally but emphatically my wife of 54-3/4 years, Mary Quello.

Susan and Mary are somewhat alike in many respects so new husband Dick, some friendly family advice from a senior citizen who has had the good fortune to be tolerated for 54-3/4 years by the best wife in the world.

Here's a few tips for maintaining longevity in marriage -- If you are wrong, admit it. If you are right, keep quiet. In a disagreement it will always be helpful to say "I think you are wrong, but I apologize." When asked how I lasted this long with Mary, I always say "it shows you what a sense of humor can really do for a woman and I usually follow that by saying "she is always great for letting me have her way." Mary claims she never once thought of divorce -- but murder several times.

So I covered the side of the family I've known through the years but I want to mention how delighted I am to be the grandfather-in-law to a great guy, Dick Montgomery. He doesn't need a press agent -- everyone who has met him sings his praises. I arranged to meet him for the first time for dinner at the INTV convention last January. Numerous station group executives and station VP and General Managers went out of their way to emphasize what a great guy he was and that he was somewhat apprehensive about meeting an FCC Commissioner for the first time. When we met, I put him at ease -- the first words I said to him were "Regardless of what you heard about me, I am not asking you for your HIV card. It was a relaxed, very friendly meeting after that irreverent opening -- and I left our initial meeting very happy for Susan and delighted that Dick was joining the family.

Seriously, Susan and Dick, we wish you happiness and fulfillment for the next 50 years though unfortunately Mary and I won't be here to celebrate your golden anniversary. But we will be cheering for you wherever we are. (In my case, I hope I'm not overcome by heat.) We wish you all the pleasant memories and exhilaration of our own golden wedding anniversary. Remember and cherish all your happy moments through life, they make a comforting cushion for your old age.

So to Susan and Dick I propose a toast. We wish you a lifetime of health and happiness -- inner beauty -- and I hope we can all be as we are today -- young or young at heart, vibrant and caring good friends. The best of luck and may God Bless You.

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