

Lynda and Michael

April 10, 2009

Wright House

Mesa, Arizona

The Gathering and Welcome

Beloved friends and family -- welcome to this beautiful April evening and to the wedding of Lynda and Michael.

Who comes with Lynda as she is married to Michael?

[Lynda's father: I do.]

Thank you. Will you all please be seated?

It is often said that a wedding is the public statement of a commitment that has already been made in the private corners of the heart. Although this is very true, a wedding is also an occasion where a couple's

combined community can show its support and share in the joy of a day that will last forever as memories.

The poet Khalil Gibran wrote:

Your friend is your needs answered.

He is your field which you sow with love and reap with thanksgiving.

And he is your board and your fireside.

For you come to him with your hunger, and you seek him for peace...

When you part from your friend, you grieve not,

For that which you love most in him may be clearer in his absence, as the mountain to the climber is clearer from the plain.

And let your best be for your friend.

If he must know the ebb of your tide, let him know its flood also.

For it is his to fill your need, but not your emptiness.

*And in the sweetness of friendship let there be
laughter, and sharing of pleasures.*

*For in the dew of little things the heart finds its
morning and is refreshed.*

Those of you who have candles are welcome
to come forward now. The warmth of
friendship and the light of love will shine on
Lynda and Michael as they share their vows
with each other.

*[Guests with candles come forward, and
place them on the wall.]*

The Consent

Michael, do you choose Lynda to be your
wife? *[Michael: I do]*

Lynda, do you choose Michael to be your
husband? *[Lynda: I do.]*

There is an old saying that you should hold
on to a true friend with two hands.

Therefore, will you please join hands and

face one another?

The Vows

Lynda and Michael are happy today not only because they can share the joy of their love for each other with friends and family, but also because they have the opportunity to express their hopes for the future.

Lynda and Michael, do you promise to help each other develop your hearts and minds, as you cultivate compassion, generosity, ethics, patience, enthusiasm, concentration and wisdom as you age and experience the ups and downs of life, and to transform them into the path of love, compassion, and joy?

We do.

Understanding that just as we are a mystery to ourselves, every other person is also a mystery to us. Do you pledge to seek to understand yourselves, each other, and all living beings, to examine your own minds continually and to regard all the mysteries of life with curiosity and joy?

We do.

When it comes time to part, do you pledge to look back at your time together with joy?

We do.

Michael's Vows to Lynda

(Michael speaks to Lynda.)

Lynda's Vows to Michael

(Lynda speaks to Michael.)

Exchanging Rings

What tokens of your love have you brought for each other?

[Lynda and Michael] These rings.

May these rings be blessed as a symbol of your unity. As day follows night and night

follows day, your two lives are joined today in an unbroken circle. Wherever you go, may you return to one another in your togetherness. May you know in one another the love for which all people hope. May you grow in understanding and compassion. May these rings symbolize the touch of the sacred, the infinite, the beauty that is love.

Michael, place the ring on Lynda's left hand.

[Michael] Lynda, I give you this ring as a pledge of my love, and a symbol of our unity. I promise always to honor the uniqueness of your spirit, to thank you when you delight me, to forgive you when you offend me. I pledge that with you, I will be most truly myself and offer such gifts as I have in the world.

Lynda, place the ring on Michael's left hand.

[Lynda] Michael, I give you this ring as a pledge of my love, and a symbol of our unity. I promise always to honor the

uniqueness of your spirit, to thank you when you delight me, to forgive you when you offend me. I pledge that with you, I will be most truly myself and offer such gifts as I have in the world.

Honoring Mothers

In the midst of their celebration, Lynda and Michael want to set aside a moment to honor their mothers. Each mother's spirit of unconditional love began with the first breath of her child, and will continue as her legacy to her children's children. As Lynda and Michael pledge to love each other forever, they remember the two people who have loved them the longest.

Washington Irving wrote, "A mother is the truest friend we have, when trials heavy and sudden fall upon us; when adversity takes the place of prosperity; when friends who rejoice with us in our sunshine desert us; when trouble thickens around us, still will she cling to us, and endeavor by her kind precepts and counsels to dissipate the clouds

of darkness, and cause peace to return to our hearts.”

Lynda and Michael would like to present roses to their wonderful mothers.

[Lynda and Michael present roses to their mothers.]

Five Blessings

Lynda and Michael, you have already been blessed with mothers who taught you the meaning of love. Along with them, I offer you the following five blessings:

1. May the power of your love bring you health and well-being throughout your lives.
2. May you have wisdom in the ordering of your common life that you may each be to the other a strength in need, a strength in perplexity, and a companion in joy.

3. May you have the grace, when you hurt each other, to recognize your faults and to seek each other's forgiveness.
4. May your life together be a vessel of divine love and a symbol of peace to our struggling world, that unity may overcome estrangement, forgiveness heal guilt, and joy conquer despair.
5. Despite whatever challenges and struggles lie upon your relationship's path, may you always find life good and worth celebrating.

Benediction

The Apaches say, now you will feel no rain, for each of you will be shelter for the other. Now you will feel no cold, for each of you will be warmth to the other. Now there will be no loneliness, for each of you will be companion to the other.

Now you are two persons, but there is only one life before you. May beauty surround

you both in the journey ahead and through all the years.

May happiness be your companion and your days together be good and long upon the earth. And if each of you takes responsibility for the quality of your life together, it will be marked by abundance and delight.

Declaration

Lynda and Michael, you have promised together before this gathering to love each other and join your lives. You are united in love and in marriage.

By the power vested in me, and with your mutual consent, I pronounce you husband and wife together, today and for all your days. Michael, you may kiss the bride.