**Marriage ceremony of Joe and Tessie**

**June 20, 2013**

**Greeting**

We are gathered here today to celebrate one of life’s greatest moments, the joining of 2 hearts.

Today we will witness the joining of Tessie and Joe.

For them, out of the routine of ordinary life, the extraordinary has happened. They met each other, fell in love, and are now finalizing it with their public commitment here today.

**Invocation**

I speak now to Tessie and Joe of love, in which the trust and freedom of the other person becomes as significant as the trust and freedom of one’s self.

I speak to them of generosity, which gathers the beauty of earth for riches and the kindness, which turns away the wrath of foolish men and women.

I speak of all our hopes for their continued growth through patience, one for the other.

May they keep the vows made on this day, in freedom, teaching each other who they are, what they yet shall be, enabling them to know that, in the fullness of being, they are more than themselves and more than each other, that they are all of us and that together we share joyously the fruits of life on this Earth.

Happiness in marriage is not something that just happens. It takes more than love.

It takes trust, to know in your hearts that you want only the best for each other.

It takes dedication, to stay open to one another and to learn and grow, even when it is difficult to do so.

Finally, it takes faith, to go forward together without knowing what the future holds for you both.

While love is our natural state of being, these other qualities are not as easy to come by.

Marriage is not a destination, but a journey.

**Consent**

Joe *do you take Tessie to be your wife? To live together in matrimony, to love, honor, comfort her and keep her in sickness and in health, and forsaking all other, for as long as you both shall live?*

*Tessie do you take Joe to be your husband? To live together in matrimony, to love, honor, comfort him and keep him in sickness and in health, and forsaking all others for as long as you both shall live?*

**Vows**

I Joe, take you Tessie to be my wife, my best friend and my one true love.

I promise to love you today, tomorrow and forever.

I will trust you and honor you.

I will laugh with you and cry with you.

I will love you faithfully, through the best and the worst.

Whatever may come, I will always be there. As I have given you my hand to hold so I give you my life to keep.

I Tessie, take you Joe to be my husband, my best friend and my one true love.

I promise to love you today, tomorrow and forever.

I will trust you and honor you.

I will laugh with you and cry with you.

I will love you faithfully, through the best and the worst.

Whatever may come, I will always be there. As I have given you my hand to hold so I give you my life to keep.

As we stand over the ocean, may your love always be as constant and unchanging as these never-ending waves that break before us; flowing endlessly from the depths of the sea.

Your love came softly before us and just as there will never be a morning without the ocean’s flow, may there never be a day without your love for the other.

1 Corinthians 13:4 - 7, 13

Love is patient; love is kind. Love is not jealous, it does not put on airs, it is not snobbish. Love is never rude, it is not self seeking, it is not prone to anger; neither does it brood over injuries. Love does not rejoice in what is wrong but rejoices with the truth. There is no limit to love's forbearance, to its trust, its hope, its power to endure.

There are in the end three things that last: faith, hope, and love, and the greatest of these is love.

**Ring Exchange**

It is a custom to exchange rings as a symbol of love. As the ring has no end, so should your love have no end. As your ring is made of titanium, symbolizing strength, so should your marriage have strength and endurance.

Joe please place the ring on Tessie’s finger and repeat after me:

“With this ring I pledge to you my love and devotion, for as long as we both shall live.”

Tessie, please place the ring on Joe’s finger and repeat after me:

“*With this ring I pledge to you my love and devotion, for as long as we both shall live.”*

As you have just sealed your relationship by the giving and receiving of rings and the exchanging of vows, you have committed here at the setting of the sun, to share the next day’s sunrise and all of your days with each other.

Today, right here, right now, this journey begins; may your marriage bring you all the exquisite excitements a marriage should bring.

**Sands Unity**

You come here today from two different families. From these two families a new family will be created. Today, this unity is symbolized through the pouring of two individual containers of sand.

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As you each hold your separate handfuls of sand, the sand represents your lives up to this moment; individual and unique. In a moment, when you combine your sand together, your lives also join together as one as well as the lives of your friends and family that are present.

Now, please simultaneously pour your sand into the unity container, symbolizing the uniting of your two lives into one.

The life that each of you have experienced until now, individually, will hereafter be inseparably united, for the two shall become one.

Just as these grains of sand can never be separated and poured again into the individual containers, so will your marriage be.

**Pronouncement**

As of this moment, you are no longer two, but one. As you have consented to live marriage, and pledged the same by the giving and receiving of a ring.

“BY VIRTUE OF THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN ME UNDER THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA, IT IS MY HONOR TO NOW PRONOUNCE YOU HUSBAND AND WIFE”

JOE YOU MAY KISS YOUR BRIDE!!

To those of you have joined us today on this beautiful beach it’s my honor to present to you, for the first time, Mr. and Mrs. Lutz.