

FATHER OF GROOM 2K

Hello everyone! On behalf of my wonderful son Ryan and his charming wife Erin, I want to welcome you all to their celebration of eternal love. Wendy and I thank everyone for coming to Tahoe. I know it was difficult to persuade you all to come to this absolute dump of a place, but thankfully you bit the bullet and joined us. But seriously, if anyone wondered why Erin and Ryan moved away from their deep bay area social scene to live in Tahoe, here is your answer. It's not a bad area to look at is it? And this is truly a marvelous day. I cannot even imagine how much time and effort it took to plan everything. Actually, I asked Ryan, and he has no idea either. Erin?

Tahoe Blue Estate has been home to so many weddings over the past few years, and we are lucky to have a place that is in such high demand. There was no special treatment, even for my son. I told Ryan around 18 months ago that if he and Erin had any plans to get married at the Estate, that they needed to book it then. So he did. Well before he actually asked Erin to marry him. He must have been very confident or just very determined to nail this place down. We all know that Ryan likes a bet but this was a gamble where he's clearly worked out the pot odds in his favour. Of course, even if he lost the pot and she had turned him down, I would have been more than fair and refunded Ryan half of his deposit back.

Ryan and Erin moved up from San Francisco to Tahoe in April 2020, right when the pandemic was getting underway, and rented a tiny cottage above our garage. I don't think Ryan had 'live like a teenager' on his personal goals for 2020 list but it worked out well in the end. If you ever find out that you are going to be housebound with only your spouse and a couple of kids for company, that might sound like a lot of dads idea of a nightmare, but we really lucked out. We had a great time hanging out, cooking meals, and enjoying the time together as adults instead of parents and children. Which is just as well, it would have been a bit awkward for everyone if I had to send Ryan to his cottage for bad behaviour, probably most awkward for Erin.

The first time I met Erin was in Berkeley when her, Ryan and I went to a Cal football game. That's how I knew she was the one. Ryan brought her to a Cal game. Definitely a keeper. Go Bears!

Ryan and Erin are a great fit as a couple. They met as group leaders at a Buddhist class. I assume with this wedding they have both reached enlightenment. They are both kind and generous, and they both excel in their careers. Besides being great in Sales, Ryan, as I mentioned, is an accomplished Poker player – he took second in the Tahoe World Series of Poker. I only hope that he doesn't use his bluffing skills on his wife. I am also glad I have gotten to watch Erin achieve so much. She is business savvy, extremely sweet, and she makes my son very happy.

Erin likes to do dance classes with Wendy in the mornings with "The Mirror", while Ryan often does Bikram yoga classes with me in the afternoons. Since neither drink, they are a good influence on us. I know, it's supposed to be the other way around, but he's also meant to look up to me and at 5'5¼ that's not going to happen. We raised him, literally, to 6'1, so we are taking credit for his good influence at least. My wife, Wendy, has a blackbelt in shopping. And as a responsible sensei, has passed her skills down to Erin who loves to shop too, so it's nice that they

can go off together and do their thing, while boys will be boys and cut loose with a few root beers. I know right? Disgraceful behaviour, all that sugar in the system.

Ryan and Erin recently purchased a new home in nearby Minden. It's a new build, and it was supposed to be complete by the time of the wedding. Who here is shocked at the fact that it's running late? They might have had to book this place 18 months ago but at least we're here. Their place in Minden is about 25 minutes away instead of 25 seconds, and we'll miss their close company. I'm not sure they'll miss ours. But it will be a nice change for them to move from the 700 sq ft cottage to a 2,900 sq. ft. 2-story home – still with beautiful views of the mountains. And they're certainly close enough that we'll still spend lots of time together. We'll be over for dinner on Sundays. Does that work for you guys?

Ryan and Erin both want kids, but for now, they have a golden retriever named Ben, who they love and spoil more than most people do their actual babies. He's even "best dog" in today's wedding party. I can't wait for his speech.

It's impressive, but not surprising to me, that as I look around and see how many exceptional people you both have in your lives. Always remember that your family is not only two of you, and Ben of course, but also everyone else here. We have your backs. Even if we won't fetch you a paper and curl up at your feet.

That's it for the wedding advice. Anything else you want to know about being married, I suggest you learn from each other. My wife has taught me everything there is to know about marriage, even if I didn't want to learn it. That is the way it should be right? But know this: as you embark on this great new path, know you are taking with you all of our best intentions, good wishes, and our hopes for a lifetime of happiness!

On that note, let us all raise a glass to Ryan and Erin. May they continue to inspire us as they embark on the amazing future that is in store for them. Cheers to the bride and groom!