

Brittney Haskell & John Gallo Wedding

The Procession

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The Invocation

We gather here remembering our Baptism, and do so in the name of The Father, The Son and The Holy Spirit. Amen.

Please be seated.

Doubly blessed is the couple that comes to the marriage altar with the approval and blessings of their families and friends. Who has the honor of presenting this woman to be married to this man?

(Mr. Haskell answers on behalf of him & Brittney's Mom, kisses Brittney and returns to his seat.)

The Introduction (Brittney & John Face Me)

Dear friends and family, with great affection for Brittney and John, we are gathered together to witness and bless their union in marriage. To this sacred moment they bring the fullness of their hearts as a treasure and a gift from God, to share with one another.

They bring their dreams, which bind them together in an eternal commitment. They bring their gifts and talents, their unique personalities and spirits, which God will unite together into one being, as they build their life together.

We rejoice with them in thankfulness to the Lord, for creating this union of hearts, built on friendship, respect and love.

With great joy, all of us present here, along with our family Saints in heaven, rejoice with God at this wedding of John & Brittney.

In addition, we give thanks to God for blessing you with your parents, Bryan & Denise, and Jean & Steven who set the loving example of marriage that you follow here today.

Thanks be to God for all his Blessings.

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First Reading

Our 1st Scripture reading is read by the Groom's cousin Ben Johnson where he reads from the apostle Paul's 1st letter to the Church of Corinth starting at the 13th verse. Benjamin?????

Ritual Of Marriage

Symbolizing their Union that God bestows upon them this day, John & Brittney will now begin the process of creating a Unity Sculpture. This is where they will combine colorful pieces of glass that will be later transformed into a beautiful piece of unique sculpture, symbolizing the oneness of their union which they will cherish throughout their marriage..... John & Brittney?

Message

Apologies Johnny, but even though you're my beloved nephew, I must address your Bride at this time....

My dear Brittney, you know you're just minutes away from being married, right? Well, I know you've known our Johnny here for 4 years – but you may not know quite **everything** about him.....

So I feel it's my duty, to fill you in on something you may **not** yet have discovered about him – and my fervent hope is that you're still standing right here when I'm done.....

We know our Johnny is a devout Christian. He's always been a spectacular son, brother, nephew & grandson. He serves his Country faithfully. He **thinks** he is the Best Pilot in the family – though Best Man Godson here might want to take up that argument.

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He was the best Hockey player in the family – until young Noah came round and saw to his demotion. All indications are that he will make a splendid husband. And all that's GREAT!

But alas, here's something you may not know.... And I can't sugarcoat this, so Brittney – take a deep breath and brace yourself as I inform you – that your Johnny is A HOMER! That's right H O M E R - a HOMER!

My sons and I have chuckled over the years about how much of a HOMER Johnny can be.... And I'm pretty sure there's a good chance you might not even know what that is. So, let me explain.....

The word HOMER is used to describe a person who is a passionate Home Team Fan. Someone that cheers for their Home team, unconditionally. In a nutshell, it means that Johnny here can be so passionate about the things that he loves – that there is nothing that he can see or hear about that thing that lessens his love for it.

As a HOMER, Johnny is blind and, just like your dog Aspen, deaf to any criticism about the things he loves.

Let me give you an example.... As you know, Johnny loves the Chicago Blackhawks. We were once watching a game where one of the Hawks, flagrantly, viciously cross checked his opponent – in open ice, within 2 feet of the referee - who was looking directly at the foul.

When the ref raised his hand to call a penalty on the Blackhawk, Johnny erupted, castigating the ref as Blind, too stupid to understand the rules, and must obviously have placed a big bet against the Hawks.. Johnny was still railing as the Hawk was skating to the penalty box without his stick - as it was broken and still draped over the hapless opponent. Now, that's a HOMER. True?

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But here's what's great about that! Johnny feels that same way about you. He is a HOMER for you! That is to say – there is **nothing** you can do that will lessen his love for you. He is ALL-IN for you unconditionally & forever. That's pretty sweet. And that is so very special.

Now Brittney, I don't know you as well as I know Johnny, but I suspect you have those same feelings for him – unconditionally & forever. That's what makes this day so joyous.

You know marriage is a Holy institution, ordained and sanctified by God. What you do here today is fulfilling God's will that he has had for you both since before you were born. As God joins you together today, remember that you are **not** signing a contract between the 2 of you. Why? Because a contract is a mechanism that defines what happens when the parties **don't** live up to their commitments.

No, what you are doing today is making a Covenant – to each other and to God. You are declaring to your Creator, to each other and to all, that you do not wish to have any way out of the Union created today. That come what may, you wish to be always bound to the other – no matter what life throws at you. A Covenant.

Oh, and here's something else I want to leave you with. John is not the only or even the best Homer here today. You know why, because God is a Homer for us all. As we repeatedly are taught throughout Scripture - there is nothing that can separate us from the love of God.

God loves us all unconditionally & passionately and does so forever – no matter what. So your actions today honor your Savior and fulfill your Lord God's desires. This is a day that not only is about John & Brittney, but it is really about John & Brittney and your God. Always remember that.

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Johnny, I knew that you'd be staying right here - next to your soon to be bride – no matter what I said. And Brittney, I see that even after this startling revelation about your soon to be husband – you're still standing right here. Well done Girl.

God bless you both.

So Johnny & Brittney it's now that time – Time to Get Married! Amen

Custom Vows Spoken By John & Brittney

John & Brittney would like to speak to each other to express the feelings they have for one other. John would you like to go 1st?

That was beautiful

Second Reading

Our second Scripture reading will be read by Brittney & John's friend Damon, who reads from the old Testament book of Ruth, starting in the 1st Chapter. Damon?

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The Vows

Mr. Best Man, may I have the rings....

Brittney & John will you please face each other.

John, take Brittney's left hand & place this ring on her finger while you repeat after me:

I, John Robert Gallo, take you Brittney Lea Haskell, to be my wedded wife, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, 'til death do us part: according to God's holy ordinance, and thereto I pledge you, my love and faithfulness.

Brittney, take John's left hand & place this ring on his finger and repeat after me:

I, Brittney Lea Haskell, take you John Robert Gallo, to be my wedded husband, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, 'til death do us part: according to God's holy ordinance, and thereto I pledge you, my love and faithfulness.

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The Wedding Prayer

Let us pray for Brittney & John in their life together.....

Good & Gracious God, our hearts are filled with great happiness on this the wedding day of John and Brittney. They come before you, pledging their lives and their hearts to one another.

Grant that they may be ever true and loving, living together in such a way as to honour you and each other.

Temper their hearts with patience, kindness, tolerance and help them to be sweethearts, helpmates, & friends. Guide them that together, they may meet the cares and problems of life more bravely. Bless them with Faith, Health & Prosperity.

May their home truly be a place of love and harmony where your Spirit is ever present. Bless their wedding day, we pray, and walk beside them, through all their life together in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ Our Lord.

Amen.

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The Pronouncement

Brittney and John if you would join hands and face your family & Friends....

By the authority vested me by the County of Mills, in the State of Iowa, in these United States of America, and most importantly through the divine will of our Lord Jesus Christ,

I proudly pronounce John & Brittney are now husband & wife. What Almighty God has joined together, let no one put asunder.

John, you may kiss your bride.

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At this time, I would like to ask the saber bearers to assume your positions.

Ladies & Gentleman it is my distinct honour to introduce to you for the first time...

John & Brittney Gallo!

▣ **The Recession**