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## The Officiant's Opening Remarks

On behalf of ( ) and ( ), I welcome you and thank you all for gathering here on this beautiful day to witness their marriage ceremony. Many of you have given them much happiness, love, warmth, and guidance through the various stages of their lives. They would like to sincerely thank you all for being here to celebrate their big day. A special and respectful acknowledgement must also be made to those friends and family members who were unable to attend.

I have also been asked by ( ) and ( ) to thank their parents for the wonderful lives they have given them, for the hard work and guidance they have provided, for their everlasting love, support, and encouragement. It is from them that they have learned the true meaning of love, friendship and family.

Optional: (name) would be here today if heaven was not so far away. His/Her/Their spirit & love is with us today and carries on in his/her/their children and grandchildren. We would also like to acknowledge those other who have passed on but whose spirit remains alive and strong in our hearts.

## Ceremony

For ( ) and ( ) marriage is an affirmation of life, an undying commitment, a spiritual, emotional, and intellectual bond between two people. It is created from the purest of friendship, respect and love.

Marriage is an adventure in the most intimate of human relationships. It is the mutual commitment of two people sincerely in love who share the same dreams about life. But more than that, it is the intimate sharing of two lives. It is a sharing that does not diminish but enhances the individuality of each partner.

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# Marriage Box

Most people get married believing a myth that marriage is a beautiful box full of all the things they have longed for: companionship, intimacy, friendship, etc. The truth is that marriage at the start is an empty box. You must put something in before you can take anything out. There is no love in marriage. Love is in people. And people put love in marriage. There is no romance in marriage. You have to infuse it into your marriage. A couple must learn the art and form the habit of giving, loving, serving, praising keeping the box full. If you take out more than you put in, the box will be empty.

The marriage between ( ) and ( ) does not mark the beginning of a new relationship; rather, it is an acknowledgement and celebration, of a relationship that has been flourishing since they met.

For ( ) and ( ), love is the longing two people feel for one another. It is the need to share, in body and spirit, the warmth, serenity and peace two people can give to one another. A simple touch, a hand held at a time of uncertainty. .Despite the vastness of this earth, despite the chaotic details that make up our lives, despite the hundreds of people we will meet in our travels, you are mine and I am yours forever.

Love is life's highest emotion. It makes us less selfish, it makes our personalities grow, and it makes our lives more meaningful. It is caring about the welfare and happiness of your partner as your own. Love makes burdens lighter because you divide them. It makes joys more intense because you share them. And it makes you stronger so you can reach out and become involved with life in ways you dared not risk alone.

A successful relationship takes more than just 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, to learn and grow, even when it is difficult to do so. And it takes faith, to go

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forward together without knowing what the future holds for you both.

You have chosen to walk through life together. There is no truer statement of love. The choice was not made by any one moment, but by being together you grew to realize that you belonged together and that you fulfilled each other's needs. You have come to thrive upon each other's presence, loyalty and wisdom. The foundation of your love is profound friendship. A friendship you have nurtured until at last you realized that you wanted to be together always. The commitment you make today will be the foundation on which you will build your life together.

### The Exchange of Vows

Your wedding rings represent the unconditional love that you have for one another and are a symbol of the vows that you will make today. \_\_\_\_\_, take this ring, put it on \_\_\_'s finger and repeat after me:

I, \_\_\_\_\_, take you, \_\_\_\_\_, to be my wife/husband, my partner, in life and my one true love.

I will cherish our friendship  
and love you today, tomorrow, and forever.

I will trust you and respect you,  
I will laugh and cry with you.

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

Whatever may come, I promise I will always be there for you.

### Closing

( ) and ( ), remember to treat both yourself and each other with respect, and remind yourselves often of what brought you together. Give the highest priority to the tenderness, gentleness and kindness that your connection deserves.

We who are present today, hope that the inspiration of this moment will never be forgotten. May all your days and years to come be filled with vision, joy and passion. May the love you now share continue to grow, and may the happiness you bring to each other be a continuing part of your life together. May you continue to laugh often and enjoy each other every day, steadfast in hope and confidence, believing in yourself and believing in each other. May your love be a sanctuary and a source from which you draw strength to live your lives with enthusiasm and imagination. May the people you touch in your lifetime know how much you love and care for one another and may you love one another forever.

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With friends and family, I have the pleasure of pronouncing you married.

Celebrate and seal your marriage with a kiss.

The Kiss

The Introduction

Friends and family it is my great honor and privilege to present to you the happy couple

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