

The Write Touch

YOUR THOUGHTS, YOUR STYLE, OUR FINISHING TOUCH!

Words from the Groom: David Mandell

(excerpt)

You may be a bit surprised to find Mr. and Mrs David Mandell standing up here ready to greet you before you've even tucked into your appetizers, but we are so excited that we didn't want to wait till the end of the evening to thank you all for being here and to spread our joy throughout this room.

I stand before you tonight in a state of amazement. I grew up in what was far from a conventional family – my brothers Josh, Sean and I were reared and cared for primarily by our mother, Elaine. We became a blended family when Mom married Cecil and Kerry, Dean and Gavin joined me and my brothers. The odds were greatly in our favour for this motley crew to be a dysfunctional grouping, but instead, we morphed into a Thornhill version of the Brady Bunch.

And that is largely due to another source of my amazement for me. My mother. Mom, I'm in awe of you. You worked tirelessly, both in and out of the house, first as a single mother and then both as a mom and stepmom. And your priority was always your family. That is a value that I cherish more and more. I'm not a child anymore, and now I can appreciate that what we took for granted as kids couldn't have been easy to provide. My step-father Cecil's wisdom and warmth have been invaluable to me. I'm so grateful to both of you for making our unique family work so seamlessly.

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It was from my grandfather Ralph that I learned what it meant to be a man – he was my moral compass. His unwavering ethical nature helped me make sense of the world, and he, along with my stepfather Cecil, taught me the value and meaning of family.....