

LOVE STORY

Skip & Colette Ottwell • Farmington Hills


Colette and I were married Aug. 8, 1979, in Würzburg, Germany. We were planning our wedding here in Michigan, but the U.S. Army had other plans for me. Our married life got off to a wonderful start as we had few distractions — no phone, no TV, one English-speaking radio station and no family to "help" work things out. Our biggest fights lasted no more than 15 minutes. They don't last much longer today!

I think Colette says it best when she says "When you are ready for marriage you are prepared to never get your way again."

We celebrated our 25th anniversary with a return trip to London and Paris with our three wonderful (really!) children. We will celebrate our 29th this summer.

Life together has been a lot of fun, a lot of love, and many, many blessings. We look forward to 29 more!

Elaine & Brendan Fitzpatrick • Farmington Hills


We've been married 35 years and are more in love today than when we were married in December 1963. Our mutual respect permits free and honest communication. Perhaps because of similar cultural and religious backgrounds, we have similar views on many topics.

Drinking coffee, reading the morning paper and discussing the world's problems start most days. The simple pleasures give great satisfaction.

Our three children are a source of happiness and pride. Our love for them has directed our energies.

We've had a few great trips together and look forward to many more.

We've been very lucky in most of the important parts of life. The storms we have weathered have strengthened us. With God's help, we'll have many more years of happy together.

Byron & Bobette Siegel • Farmington Hills


We have been married for 26 years, have three wonderful children (all successful products of the Farmington Hills school system), and are both working. I am an attorney and Bobette is a clinical social worker. We have lived in Farmington Hills for 22 years.

Ken & Dorothy Congdon • Farmington


Dorothy and Ken Congdon were high school sweethearts and have been married almost 60 years. They have two children and four grandsons and make family and marriage their priority. Ken enjoys golf and stained glass hobbies and Dorothy enjoys gardening and watercolor painting.

Leon & Rosalyn Schofield • Farmington Hills


Rosalyn and I have been married since 1971. Some of the reasons we've stayed together all these years are explained here.

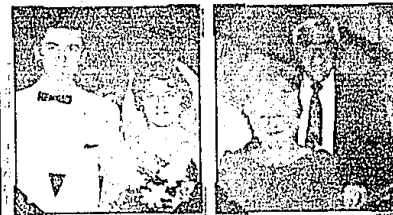
She teaches all day. When we eat dinner together, she's listening to the TV and I'm reading the Observer. When we do have a discussion she talks to me from the attic and I answer her while I'm outside.

We do everything together but apart. At night she's upstairs reading while I'm downstairs drawing. I go up about 10:30 p.m. to kiss her goodnight; most of the time she's already asleep because she gets up daily with birds.

We have much in common: I like outdoor exhibits, concerts, and walking. Rozz enjoys movies, eating out, and gossiping. Our sex life is interesting, too. I prepare a musical, calm and seductive atmosphere; then I tell her to go downstairs for champagne. She leaves but forgets to come back; she gets sidetracked watching TV and snoring.

My wife enjoys vacations, I don't. She says she likes the idea of doing the same things we do at home, but in a different location.

I really don't believe in marriage; it's like living within organized chaos. Whoever said marriage is an institution, was correct. It should really be called a state of mutual emotional and mental confusion, possibly leading to unexpected bliss!

Barbara & Robert Armstrong • Farmington Hills


We have been married for 37 years last Sept. 22. We have six wonderful and thoughtful children, five grandchildren and one on the way.

Even though in all those 37 years, I must say, we had our misunderstandings, and little spats, but my husband was always faithful, understanding, cooperative and gentle. He was always at home to guide me and our family. He's an ideal man, husband and father! More men in the world should be like this person. He's one great person anyone would be glad to come home to.

So — marriage is beautiful. We made it that way!

Judy & Harry Ewald • Farmington Hills


Harry and I have been married 34 years and have raised four wonderful, successful children. After all these years I would say a testimony to a good marriage is when one can stand back and say at any given moment through thick or thin, I am a better person because I married him/her — and indeed I can say this.

Hoten & Dick Naight • Farmington Hills


We met at 15 in Young People's Group at Grand River Baptist Church in 1937. June 5, 1942, was our Big Day — after three years of parental opposition and a six-month engagement, Richard finally won my parents' hearts for their lifetime. My parents gave us a lovely wedding and reception at the Botsford Inn. His parents signed for a little "honeymoon cottage" so we could buy it because we were only 19.

Even though Richard was working on defense at Ford's, he felt he wanted to sign up for the air force. "We" were in the service for three years. I went to be with him when possible. Our two little girls were born during this time.

It was a great day when the war was over and her came home! We moved back in our little house which we had to rent during wartime. Our son was born May 5, 1950. This completed our dreams.

Richard changed jobs now and then but was always happy in his work and advancement. He went back to night school and obtained his master's degree. I loved being home with our little ones. Time and years fled by. We traveled some with them. Disneyland, Washington, D.C., and Canada. Sometimes we could afford a hotel, but usually used our camping trailer and station wagon.

All three children attended Hillsdale College, which was a busy time for all. Owning Camelot Travel from 1970-78 was a wonderful experience. We were able to travel fabulous places together — Europe, Orient, Hawaii, the Holy Land. Great friends were made that will last our lifetime.

Each child had a beautiful church wedding and presented us later with adorable grandchildren, two boys and three girls. They still are the light of our lives. All have or are attending colleges. Two girls are married, one has a daughter, the other has a daughter and baby son. Great-grandchildren are even more fun.

Richard is a marvelous, loving husband and grandfather. In June, we will celebrate 57 years of happiness. We still talk things over, give lots of hugs and kisses. Always say I love you. We go to church on Sunday and believe prayer changes things.

Love and marriage

Couples tell how they keep it together

Marilyn & Gerald Vayko Farmington


We have been married 40-plus years, and look forward to many more.

From the very beginning, we would get up early, before our children, and have a cup of coffee and talk. Now that we are alone, we still do it.

My husband has such a great sense of humor. He makes everyone he meets smile, including me.

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