

Thorngates Celebrate 60th Wedding Anniversary Florence, Oregon



On July 29, 2005 Fred and Margaret Thorngate celebrated their sixtieth wedding anniversary. Not many of us are able to claim that distinction. About eighty members of their church, various clubs, friends and family members were present for the celebration.

They danced to a small band, and drank toasts to the happy couple.

Margaret and Fred danced to "Always" the song played at their wedding July 26, 1945. Fred said he never thought it would be for sixty years.



The next day, they were joined by nephews and their families from Portland for a barbeque. About twenty two of their family attended. Fred and Margaret said that weekend was the celebration of their life!

They met in California during World War II when Fred was a young Army Lieutenant from Pennsylvania. Margaret was a plane spotter for the Civil Defense at the time. Fred's unit was sent to Europe and Margaret joined the WAVES. During a 30 day leave, as Fred was being transferred to the Pacific, they were married. Instead of Fred's being in the invasion of Japan, the atomic bomb drop ended the war. That marriage has now lasted 60 years.

Fred and Margaret have three children and are also blessed with grandchildren and great grandchildren.



In the early days of their marriage, they lived on the eastern shore of Maryland. They operated a tavern and Fred had a well drilling business. In 1961 they moved to California to be near Margaret's family and Fred became a building contractor. After Fred retired, they settled in Wrightwood, California and later moved to Florence, Oregon where they now reside.

Margaret is a member of a unit of Toastmasters International and a past President of the Florence Oregon Toastmasters. She is also the Oregon State Director of WAVES National and the head of the Coastal Women Veterans. Fred has been a strong supporter of community projects. During his growing up years, he spent his summers with his Dawson cousins on the Outer Banks at Nags Head, NC and says he still considers himself a "Tar Heel".

They dislike the term "getting old" but they sometimes use it as an excuse. The hardest part of their daily lives is not being able to do many of the simple things they used to do.

When asked what the ingredients for a long, happy marriage are, they both said it was having a good sense of humor. Margaret adds that it's also a matter of space and having the freedom to accomplish their goals and interests. Fred maintains it is just being able to live longer and better.