

Clodis & Audrey Cox

A Katy Love Story

*Katy couple celebrates 70 years of marriage
and shares their story of lasting love*

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To this day, Clodis insists that Audrey is the one who asked him out, and they've been by each other's side ever since

One sunny Sunday afternoon in the 1940s, Clodis Cox strolled into a small church in Beaumont, TX. Unbeknownst to him, he would soon be introduced to Audrey Alexander, a woman who would impact the rest of his life.

After a while, Audrey took matters into her own hands when she spotted young Clodis waiting for the bus. In an effort to secure her first date with him, she pulled over and offered him a ride, which of course, he eagerly accepted. "To this day I've never lived down the fact that I 'picked him up,'" Audrey laughs. Their first date was the following Friday.

Drafted into Marriage

A mere seven months later, Audrey donned an engagement ring on her finger, although they had not yet set a date. That summer Clodis received notice that he was required to register for the World War II draft.

During the enrollment process, Clodis discovered that if he had two dependents he could get two deferments prolonging his entry into the armed forces. After claiming responsibility for his 15-year-old brother Joe, he added Audrey's name to the paperwork and knew that he had to make it official. Clodis returned to Audrey's home and informed them that he would need to marry her, that night. In a whirlwind blessing, that's exactly what they did.

"The judge, Clodis' caretaker, had to sign for him and my mother signed for me in order to get the license," remembers Audrey. There in the dining room with no cake, no pictures, no frills, with just the judge, family members, and a few neighbors, Audrey and Clodis began their new life together.

Sticking with It

Clodis honored his duty to country and served in the Army Air Corps for three years. The Coxes went through several permanent change of station (PCS) moves, but never let the challenges of military life affect their devotion to one another. "You tough it out through the good times and the bad," says Audrey. "Those were the rules in 1942. When you made a commitment, you stuck with it."

During those years Clodis and Audrey also welcomed the first of two daughters, Barbara. Evolving from two teenagers in love to guiding and protecting a family of their own, they've come to understand that commitment is the key to relationships that persevere. "When problems come up, you have to be like Jesus, caring and forgiving," Clodis adds.

On Valentine's Day, Clodis was discharged from the Army, and the couple happily moved their family back to Texas.



Serving Others

After 70 years of marriage, Clodis and Audrey remain as dedicated and in love as they were on that destined June day. Clodis worked hard to provide for his family and to grow their own seed rice business that fed Katy's economy for over 25 years. Although fruitful, Clodis has never placed his value or that of his family on material things. "I made up my mind a long time ago to not be so attached to my money that I couldn't cope if I lost some or couldn't afford to give some away," he says.

After moving to Katy in 1975, Clodis was intentional about looking for ways to give back to their newfound community. On their commute across town to their church on Sunday, they noticed an empty church building just waiting to be occupied in their own

neighborhood. Partnering with friends, Clodis and Audrey set out to help grow a congregation, and with 19 members, they held their first service on May 12, 1976. Today, Katy Church of Christ boasts over 500 members.

The Coxes take great joy in serving others and are still active in the community, often taking the time to visit those

Friends and family traveled for miles to help celebrate the Coxes' 70 years of marriage




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- Audrey Cox

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Audrey and Clodis love spending their retirement years in Katy



Adamant about generosity, the Coxes helped begin the Katy Church of Christ



The Coxes celebrating at their retirement party from their rice seed business, after 25 years of service

COX FAMILY HISTORY:

- 1941 Clodis and Audrey meet
- 1942 Clodis and Audrey married on June 30
- 1943 Clodis enters the Army Air Corps
- 1944 Daughter, Barbara, is born in September
- 1946 Clodis is discharged from the military
- 1952 Daughter, Vicki, is born in January
- 1975 The Coxes start their seed rice business in Katy
- 1976 Assisted in starting the Katy Church of Christ
- 2012 Celebrated 70 years of marriage



who are sick and bringing home baked treats. Audrey also nurtures her own ministry driving those who are no longer able to appointments or errands and relishing the time to be able to visit with them, letting them know that someone cares and is thinking about them.

Sundays will find the Coxes surrounded by children who have come to know if they're patient and polite there will be a piece of candy for them in Audrey's pocket.

The Legacy Continues

Through military life, job loss, the birth of children, growing a church, and all of life's ups and downs, the Coxes have kept their faith and marriage strong. Their legacy continues in their daughters Barbara Cox Toler and Vicki Claton. Both daughters agree that there is no couple more deserving of having their love story told.

Enjoying retirement at their home in Katy, Clodis and Audrey adore getting to know their five grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. They remain active in the church they helped start all those years ago and, in spite of recent health challenges, eagerly anticipate their 71st wedding anniversary. **KM**

KIMBERLY TAVERNIER lives in Katy with her husband, James, and has four children. She enjoys spending time with neighbors and dining locally.

KIRSTEN CORNELL enjoys being an associate editor for Katy Magazine and applauds the Coxes for their shining example of a biblical marriage.