

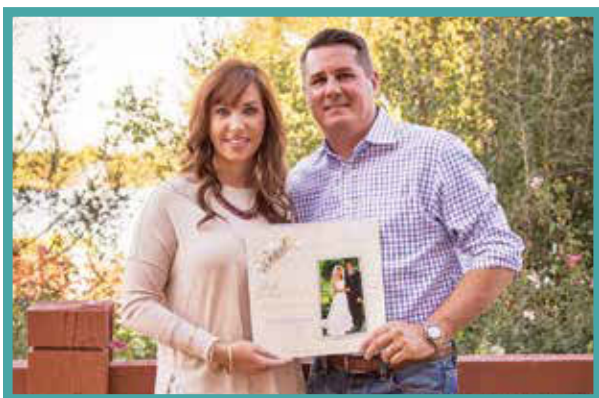
Adam and Sonia Traugott
realized they were soul
mates on their first date



Katy Love Stories

COUPLES SHARE THEIR STORIES OF LASTING LOVE AND ANNIVERSARY MILESTONES

Written by Elizabeth Padgett | Select photography by Anetrius Wallace



ADAM AND SONIA TRAUGOTT MARRIED 15 YEARS

While Adam and Sonia Traugott currently own Sunset Pools, they met while working together at a different company in 1999. Simplicity and having fun has been the key to their staying power.

The two realized they were soul mates on their first date. Both in and out of business, Adam and Sonia work as a team. "It's essential to know you both have unconditional support in the tough times," says the couple. Sonia stresses the importance of communication. "Communicate with each other in an honest, respectful manner even in the hard times," she says. "Don't wait for things to get better. Be open to make changes as your lives change, and they will."

Adam is never worried about displaying his affection in public. "Never react too soon, and always love your wife as you want to be loved," he says. "Be certain to show her by actions that she's loved. It can feel more significant to do that when you're around other people."

ADVICE FROM THE TRAUGOTTS

"Communicate with each other discussing both the good and bad. Love one another as you would want to be loved."

LUPE AND DORA RODRIGUEZ MARRIED 30 YEARS

Part of the same inner circle of friends, Lupe and Dora Rodriguez would've never made it this far without Dora's bold move during a quinceañera. A bit bummed by her date, Dora marched right over to Lupe, asking him to dance. Soon after, he asked her to move in with him and his parents. "We have had many stormy paths along the way, but our faith and sons are what have continued to keep us moving forward as a team." Lupe and Dora got married at ages 18 and 16. Because of her age, Dora's mother had to sign papers allowing her to tie the knot.

The key to their marriage is realizing what a good partner you truly have. "They may not be as perfect as you want them to be, but neither are you," she says. "My husband gave me a little statue many, many years ago that I still have to this day. It's a couple holding each other that reads 'Sometimes I hate you, but always I love you.' Not romantic, but it has worked for us for 30 years."

ADVICE FROM THE RODRIGUEZES

"Most people will say trust, and while that is part of it, I would say making sure you realize what a good partner you have and cherishing your family no matter how big or small."



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Wayne proposed to Bess on Valentine's Day in 1965

WAYNE AND BESS SCHROEDER MARRIED 50 YEARS

Wayne and Bess Schroeder were introduced by Wayne's sister and later became high school sweethearts. While Bess knew right away he was "the one," it didn't hit Wayne until he realized he wouldn't be able to see Bess until football season was over while at college. He proposed to her on Valentine's Day in 1965, and they were married four months later on June 5.

"We have stayed in love by prayer, the grace of God, and forgiveness when times get tough," says Bess. She further says that taking time to remember their vows and covenant made with each other are all part of what has helped them reach this golden anniversary milestone. The Schroeders also enjoy vacations, playing sports, and going on dates. Wayne and Bess take time to treasure the good times and understanding each other's true feelings. "When we celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary with friends and family, we had a chance to look back and see the fruit of our years together."

ADVICE FROM THE SCHROEDERS

"Our advice for a long, happy marriage is putting God first, each other, and then family. Treasure the good times and be thankful for them."



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JIM AND LINDA CRISP MARRIED 50 YEARS

Jim and Linda Crisp married on August 7, 1965 after just one year of dating. The pair was blessed with their only daughter, Tracy, 13 years later. "Life hasn't always been easy, but our faith in Jesus has helped us," shares Jim and Linda when discussing the hardships they've overcome. Linda was diagnosed with stage three breast cancer in August 2010 and is still fighting today.

Jim has never left her side. "Whether it was a quick radiation treatment, half day of chemo, or a full day of scans and doctor's appointments, we have walked every step together," says Jim. More than just a companionship, Jim and Linda are an embodiment of a lifelong love and friendship.

ADVICE FROM THE CRISPS

"Having a strong love for one another and faith can help you overcome any obstacle in your path."



Jim Crisp has stayed by his wife's side for every chemo treatment and doctor's appointment



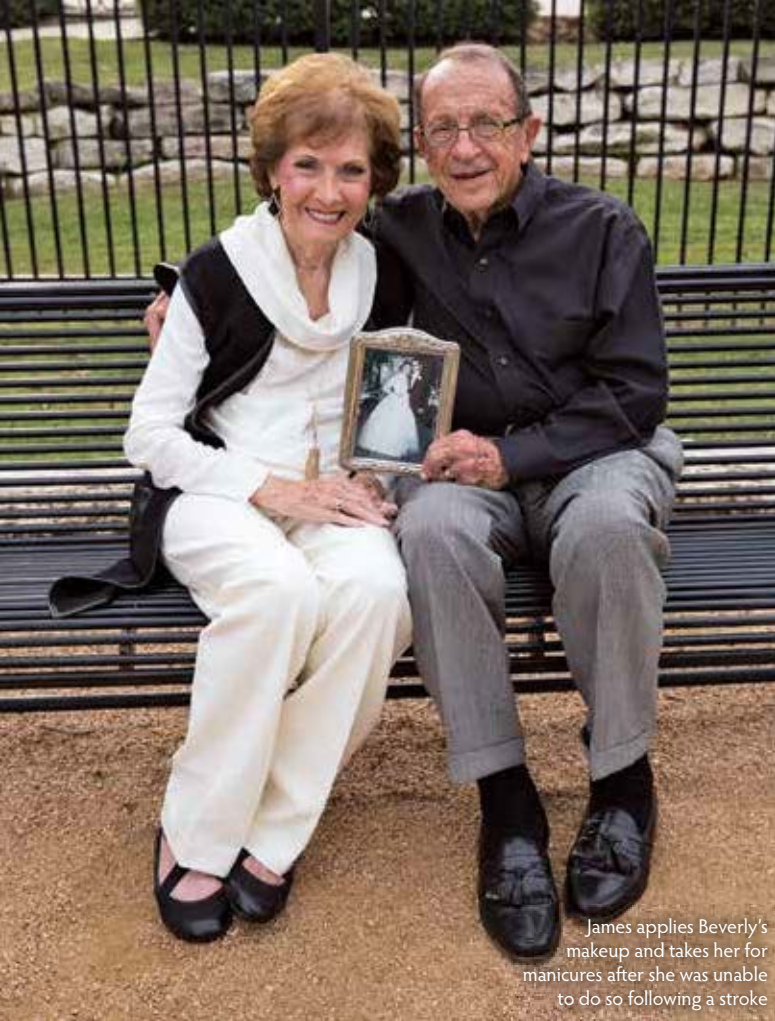
ROGELIO AND RAQUEL SOSA MARRIED 57 YEARS

Raquel Sosa recalls the first time she met her husband, "Rogelio went to work on a project where my family lived in Port of Guayabal, Cuba. My sister was actually engaged to Rogelio's assistant, and I met Rogelio when they came to our house to visit." Rogelio says it was love at first sight. In a perfect movie moment, Rogelio had Raquel's dad convinced her that he'd forgotten all about her while away on a business trip. Upon returning, he popped the big question and was able to genuinely surprise his bride-to-be.

The key to their longevity has been their inseparability. "We have always been side-by-side in all of our activities. We miss each other and look for each other if we are not together." Their ability to make it through the tough times is credited to maintaining the family support and faith in God. "We are always looking toward the family's happiness and progress. To treat each other with honesty, mutual respect, and always show proof of love is what has led us to a long, happy marriage," says the couple.

ADVICE FROM THE SOSAS

"Treat each other with honesty, mutual respect, and always remember to show proof of your love."



James applies Beverly's makeup and takes her for manicures after she was unable to do so following a stroke

JAMES AND BEVERLY MORRIS MARRIED 58 YEARS

During a cold February night in 1953, James Morris offered Beverly his coat, and she gladly accepted. This simple gesture set the two on the path to becoming lifelong partners.

"We have never ever raised our voices at each other," says James. "We of course have had disagreements, but nothing so strong that our love did not help us solve and overcome." James says that their Christian faith has been their guiding source throughout marriage. After Beverly suffered an aneurysm and subsequent stroke in 2012, she became unable to walk, talk, or eat by mouth. As James cares for Beverly's needs, even applying her makeup and taking her for weekly manicures, he makes it his mission to bring a smile to her face. "We always remembered the vows we made, 'I do,' not 'I do if,'" says James. The two take family vacations yearly with their children. "Even early on in our marriage when we were sometimes short on money, we did not let that stop us from taking our kids on a vacation and creating memories," says James. **KM**

ADVICE FROM THE MORRISSES

"Tell each other 'I love you' several times a day. Take annual family vacations with your children."

ELIZABETH PADGETT is a professional writer and hopes to have a relationship as wonderful and everlasting as these couples.

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