

Robert and Dorothy Cholish met in an ice cream parlor in 1942 at the age of 14



## A Lifetime of Love

Katyites Robert and Dorothy Cholish celebrate 65 years of marriage

*Written by Kirsten Cornell | Select photography by Anetrius Wallace*

When Robert and Dorothy Cholish met at Frank's ice cream parlor in 1942 at the age of 14, Robert says it was love at first sight. "I don't even remember proposing, it was just destiny."

Seventy-four years later, they have celebrated a lifetime of love, children, grandchildren, milestone accomplishments, and 65 years of marriage.



## Hopeless Romantic

During their courtship they attended sorority and fraternity dances together and live theatrical productions. Funnily enough, Dorothy says that one of their most memorable dates centered around America's favorite pastime, baseball. "Robert picked me up and took me to meet friends at Briggs Stadium in Detroit to see a baseball game and then to a nice dinner," she laughs.

Robert, still a romantic, says that the most unforgettable moment for him was dancing under the stars at Eastwood Gardens to the music of Stan Kenton. Dancing has always been a large part of their lives and they belonged to several dance clubs throughout their life together.

Although they fell in love at a young age, the couple courted for 10 years before tying the knot. After college, Robert continued his education at University of Detroit Law School, and they decided to wait and allow him to focus on his studies; at least until his final year. "Robert was clean-cut and serious about his future. I wanted a stable home and four children," Dorothy states. "There was no proposal. I told him I didn't want to wait any longer. He still had a year of law school to finish, so we paid the price in the following few years until he found a good job."

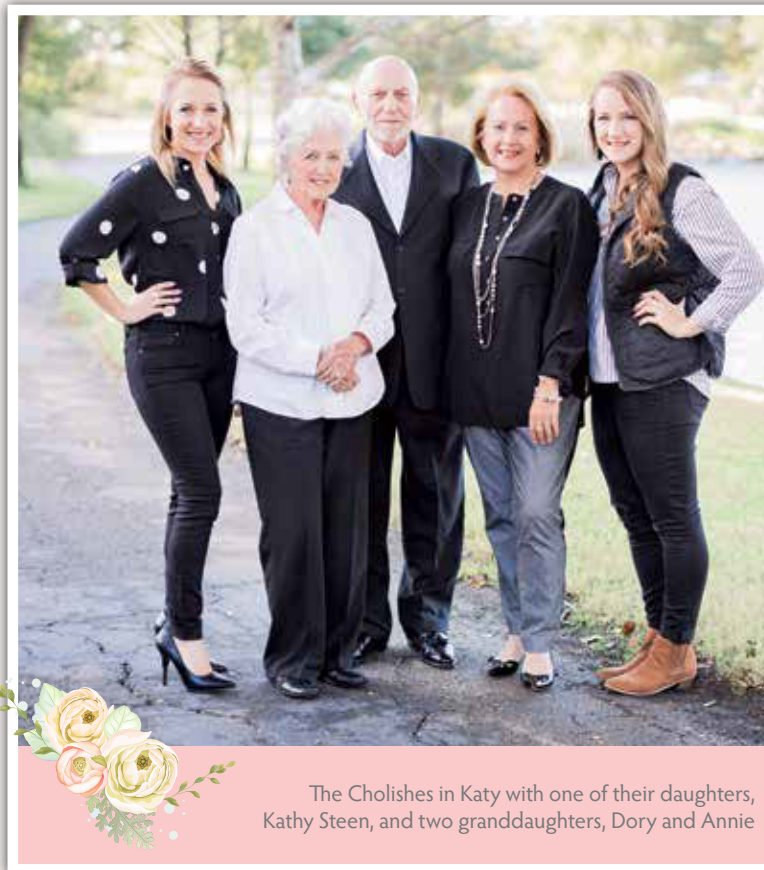
## Biggest Surprise

On a rainy September day in 1951, the two married during a church ceremony and hosted a reception at the Botsford Inn in Michigan. "It was an old stagecoach stop that was very beautiful," Dorothy adds. The couple says the biggest surprise for them both after marriage was that Dorothy had no idea how to cook. But she did eventually learn and they set out to build their family. "I still make breakfast, lunch, and dinner every day," she says. "Except when we go out for a meal on occasion."

Dorothy got her wish and the couple raised four girls: Pamela, Nancy, Kathy, and Karen. They admit that their marriage has not always been perfect and they found themselves in small arguments over differences of opinion on inconsequential matters; but Robert's main advice is to forgive and forget. "When resolving a conflict, give your opinion in a calm way and then don't discuss it anymore," Dorothy advises.

## Love and Respect

The family made their way to Katy in May 2001. Their daughter, Kathy Steen, also lives in the area and serves as an assistant principal at Taylor High School.



The Cholishes in Katy with one of their daughters, Kathy Steen, and two granddaughters, Dory and Annie

The Cholishes are happy to be celebrating a lifetime together. They are parishioners at Epiphany of the Lord Catholic Church and enjoying walking their dog, Ohso. They still love to dance, attend concerts, cheer at Taylor football games, or dine in LaCenterra.

Their secret is simple. "You have to say 'I love you' and 'Thank you,'" Robert says. "Candy, flowers, and gifts don't hurt either." Dorothy admires that Robert never forgets birthdays or

anniversaries, and brings home flowers and goodies often. She adds, "You have to demonstrate love and respect for each other." **KM**

*KIRSTEN CORNELL is the lead associate editor at Katy Magazine. She and her husband have another 62 years to live up to the Cholishes' example.*