

Happily Ever After

Katy long marriages share secrets for overcoming difficulties and living happily ever after

Written by Natalie Cook Clark



Photo by See What Develops

Carl and Tamra Dore were introduced by a friend while they were students at Texas A&M University

Carl and Tamra **DORE**



Married 34 years

A church group. A skiing trip. Outside a college dorm. Sometimes, love shows up when you're least expecting it. For these seven Katy couples, that love has endured throughout their many years together with lots of heart and teamwork. Their healthy marriages serve as shining examples of the way love can transform two lives into one story full of happy memories.

Carl and Tamra Dore | Love, Texas A&M Style

Carl and Tamra Dore met at Texas A&M University when a fellow Katy resident introduced them outside Tamra's dorm. At the time, Carl was a senior social director and Tamra was a freshman. After a few dates, Carl decided they were too serious and should see other people. Then, one night he saw her with another date and didn't much care for that. The two reconciled their relationship and got back together that very evening. The rest is history, and they are now celebrating 34 years of marriage.

The two echo the common value of a church home's importance in keeping their relationship healthy. The Dores now have three children, ages 30, 27, and 20 and two grandchildren.

Sharing Goals and Values

Tamra and Carl both have a strong connection with Katy, and their children would often spend the day in a playpen at Tamra's business, Katy Budget Books. "Often times, I'd go to check on them and find that customers had also put their children in the playpen," she says. Along with their children, the Dores believe one of their greatest rewards in life has been self-employment. Such career paths involve risks, but the two have always supported each other. Tamra has been the owner of Katy Budget Books for 28 years, and Carl is the founder of the law firm Dore and Associates.

The Dores encourage younger couples to always make time to do things together. "When we were young, it was easy to lead separate lives and get caught up in work," says Carl. "Be smart in where you put your time and energy." They recently trained and rode in a six-day cycling race from Houston to New Orleans and are considering participating in a half marathon.

Doyle and Kay Callender | A College Romance

Many Katyites know Doyle Callender as a former Katy mayor and an active public servant. Behind every great man, though, is a great woman and for Doyle, his wife Kay has been that pillar in his life. Kay is also a pillar of the community and sits on the Keep Katy

Beautiful board. The couple will celebrate 40 years of marriage in January and attribute mutual respect, a strong family, church, and a passion to serve others as the ingredients of a successful marriage. The Callenders met while in college at Sam Houston State University. Kay first noticed Doyle when she looked out her dorm window. After just four dates, Doyle informed her that he was in love and had written his mother telling her that he had met the one. "I thought very much of her, even though I didn't know her that well," he shares. The Callenders have two sons, Kyle Callender, 35, and John Callender, 32, as well as two grandchildren.

Making Time for Each Other

The Callenders share ethics and morals and both value a strong family life. "When all of that comes together marriage is a beautiful partnership and loving friendship," says Kay. They have made it through many struggles, including Doyle's cancer diagnosis and recovery.

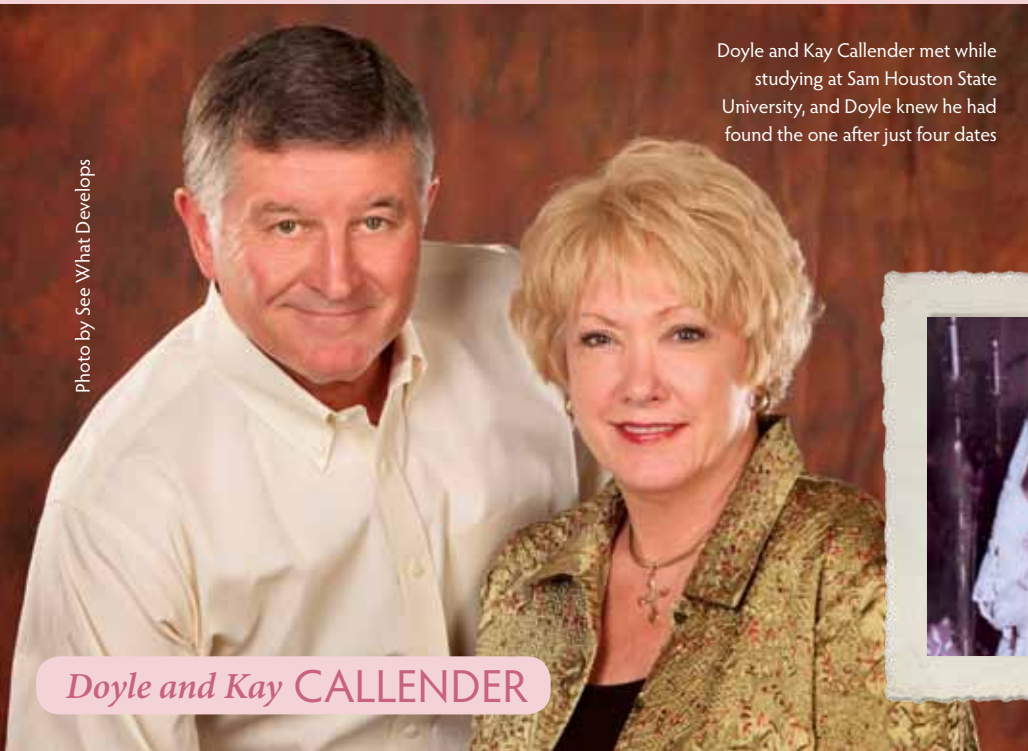
"You have to make time for one another," explains Doyle. "We always make time for coffee and to read the paper with each other in the morning, [and] we eat dinner together every night," shares Kay. Doyle encourages Katy couples to keep humor in their relationship and to not take themselves too seriously. "Grow together and become one person," he says.

Katy Mayor Don and Ida Faye Elder

A Katy High Love Story

Katy Mayor Don and Ida Faye Elder's love story began at an early age, when they met while attending Katy High School. "I thought my, how handsome Don was and how fun and polite he seemed," recalls Ida. "He was such a gentleman." They began dating just two years later, when Ida was a junior and Don was studying at Sam Houston State University. "I thought how cute and friendly Ida Faye was and I wanted to date her," shares Don. The two recently celebrated 45 years of marriage and enjoy sharing the simple life together. They consider the birth of their son Shane one of their greatest blessings in life and take pride in their family life.

Photo by See What Develops



Doyle and Kay Callender met while studying at Sam Houston State University, and Doyle knew he had found the one after just four dates

Doyle and Kay CALLENDER

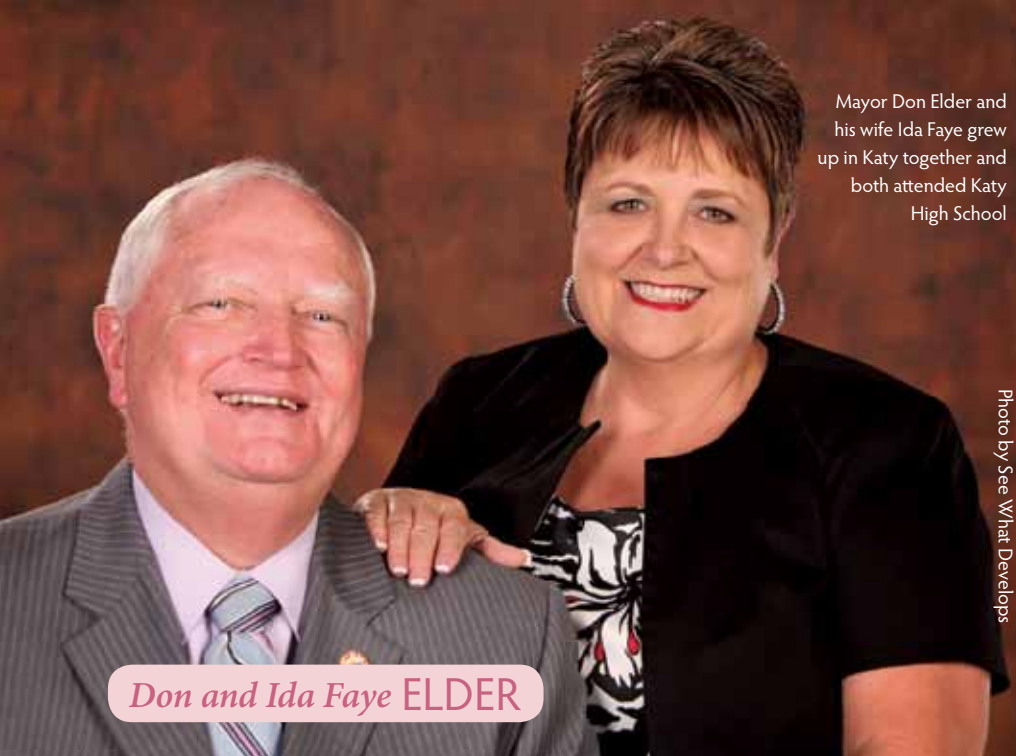
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“You have to make time for one another.”

– Former Katy mayor Doyle Callender, married to Kay Callender for 40 years



Married 40 years



Mayor Don Elder and his wife Ida Faye grew up in Katy together and both attended Katy High School

Photo by See What Develops

Don and Ida Faye ELDER

Encouragement and Support

Throughout their many years together, the Elders count the support they have given each other as a great reward. Don notes the wonderful encouragement his wife has always given him throughout his life of service as a member of the school board and city council and currently as mayor. Ida says, "It is important to work together as a team. Talk things out." They keep their bond strong by enjoying

frequent date nights together, often times twirling on the dance floor to the tunes of a good country song. "We enjoy going to a nice restaurant for dinner where we can talk and communicate with each other," says Ida. "We also enjoy actually just hanging out with our friends."

“*It is important to work together as a team. Talk things out.*”

- Ida Faye Elder, married to Katy Mayor Don Elder for 45 years



Married 45 years

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Sandy and Dean FAUCETT

Sandy and Dean Faucett were set up on a blind date by a friend and immediately hit it off

Photo by See What Develops



Married 35 years

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“We love our time together and we cherish it more now than ever before.”

– Sandy Faucett, married to Dean Faucett for 35 years

Dean and Sandy Faucett | Blessed with a Blind Date

Dean and Sandy Faucett, married for 35 years, first met on a blind date. “He arrived at my apartment 30 minutes early and sat in his car,” recalls Sandy. “I was afraid he was a stalker, but instead, he was the love of my life.”

Sandy and Dean now have three children, Michelle Johns, 34, Trey Faucett, 32, and Chad Faucett, 30, all of whom are married. “We love our time together and we cherish it more now than ever before,” says Sandy.

Through Thick and Thin

Their marriage is strong today because of their determination to seek help when it was needed and never give up on each other. When their oldest daughter was in kindergarten, Sandy had a nervous breakdown and Dean helped her make it through. Then another struggle came 15 years into their marriage, when Dean admitted to being unfaithful. “Of course, my heart was broken, but we sought Christian counseling for years and finally, healing came,” shares Sandy.

Like many others, the Faucetts have also encountered times of financial trouble and even lost their home. “During these times, we held onto each other and our three wonderful children,” says Sandy.

Through all their struggles, they continued to focus on making things work. “Today, we have the opportunity to help other couples that are struggling,” says Dean.

The Faucetts encourage couples to communicate for a healthy marriage. “We can become so busy with our children, jobs, church, and other things that we lose ourselves and each other,” says Sandy. They believe strongly in date nights. “One thing we have learned about date night is to always sit across from each other, so you can look in each other’s eyes [and] share your heart with your spouse,” she advises. “And never go to bed angry.”

Hill and Carol Adams | An Instant Connection

Hill and Carol Adams met at a bar in Park City, Utah when they were both there on a skiing trip. They stayed out late with a group of people watching a Phil Donahue special that led to some great discussion. “I thought Carol was pretty and smart,” recalls Hill. “I knew she was the one from the beginning or shortly thereafter.” They have enjoyed life together ever since. Carol and Hill consider their children Anne, 25, and Robert, 23, as their greatest accomplishment together. “They’ve grown into wonderful young adults,” says Carol.

Growing Together as a Couple

They believe in supporting each other through thick and thin. “In every relationship, there are good times and not-so-good times; you just love your partner through it all,” shares Carol. “Be grateful for blessings, forgive mistakes, be there when they need you and when they don’t, and nurture the evolution of both partners, as well as the marriage.”

The couple believes it is important to give your spouse some space to do what they love. Hill stays busy as the president of the board at Pine Forest Country Club, while Carol serves as the executive director for the Katy Heritage Society and as a member of the Katy City Council. “I believe that couples need to understand that both parties will grow and change,” shares Carol. “You have to be open to that and be willing to compromise.”

David and Tracey Grimme

A Chance Encounter at Church

For David and Tracey Grimme, having church as a foundation has always played a key role in their relationship. They celebrated 29 years of marriage this July and met at Chadron State College in Nebraska through a church group. “I saw Tracey walking down the church aisle in white and she looked like an angel,” David says. “I thought he was a good-looking guy and very well-mannered,” Tracey shares.

It wasn’t until their second date that David won Tracey over, though. “He was very polite and formal and boring. I told him that,” she says. “We then went to play at a neighborhood playground and I just saw another fun side to him.” The rest is history, and they have since been blessed with three children, Ben, 26, Sarah, 24, and Rachel, 21, and one granddaughter.

Enjoying Every Day Together

Just like many other couples, the Grimmes know there are different seasons of a marriage. “We are always learning about each other,” says Tracey. The most difficult years they have spent together came when David was working toward his MBA and they had a baby. “We learned to be tolerant, to laugh at each other and vice versa,” explains David. They stress the importance of putting your spouse first. “People bring their own perspectives of what they believe marriage to be. We had to communicate and grow to believe in those same perspectives.”

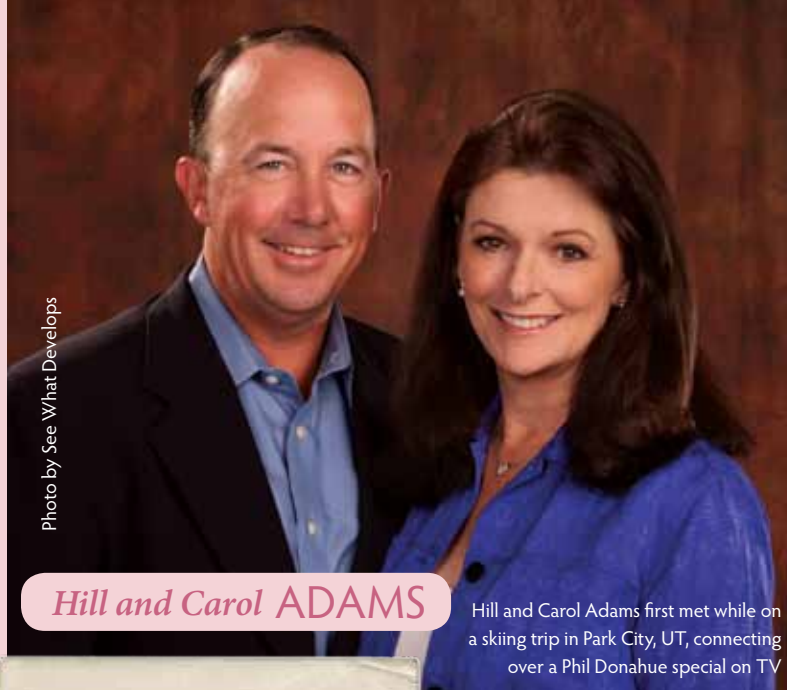


Photo by See What Develops

Hill and Carol ADAMS

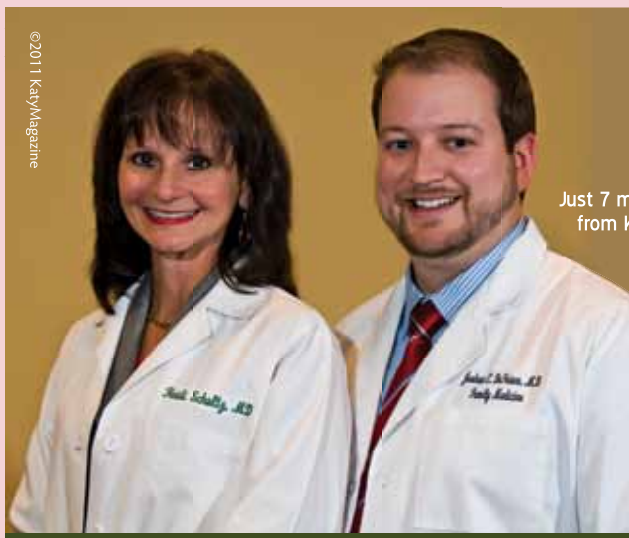
Hill and Carol Adams first met while on a skiing trip in Park City, UT, connecting over a Phil Donahue special on TV



Married 31 years

“Be grateful for blessings, forgive mistakes, be there when they need you and when they don’t, and nurture the evolution of both partners, as well as the marriage.”

– Katy City Councilwoman Carol Adams, married to Hill Adams for 31 years



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Tracey and David GRIMME



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“The key to marriage is to enjoy every day. Look for the joy.”

– David Grimme, married to Tracey Grimme for 29 years

Healthy and Happy Marriages

Wise in the ways of love, these Katy couples all work together to keep their marriages healthy and strong. They agree that, despite any adversities, love outweighs everything and communication is the key to a successful union. KM

NATALIE COOK CLARK enjoys freelance writing and sharing stories from her hometown of Katy.