

Newlyweds at middleage, she expects 40 years out of it



By Karen Zach, Around the County

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It's newlyweds this week and I sure enjoyed visiting with them at Pizza Hut. They're so cute! About Valentine's Day this year, they were discussing marriage in a nonchalant way, whether a big wedding, small or just whatever. They decided maybe they'd do a small one, but she told him first he had to ask her, so he turned toward her, said her name, following with a "Will ya marry me?" Evidently, she said yes but it didn't stop him from his genealogical excursion to Europe. She stayed home planning the wedding! They had met several years earlier when their mutual awesome friend, Steve Suiter was fighting cancer. They saw each other during several hospital visits and became well-acquainted then later reacquainted and in May at Ladoga's Old Normal they were married in a beautiful ceremony. I have known her for several years and was just thrilled when I saw the gorgeous Facebook photos of their happy time.

They are madly in love and when I asked them about that topic, I in turn loved their answers. He noted that she is his intellectual and emotional equal and that he loved that she's a giver, not a taker since he'd had so many of the latter in his life. She loved that he looked at her with a spark in his eye and that he was an intellect and owned so many passions. "We are thrilled to finally find this type love in life after we both have been through so many tragedies and sorrows."

One of his passions he shares with me, our love to discover our ancestors. In fact, we are definitely cousins as his direct, William the Conqueror is mine, as well! On his trip he was able to visit castles, cathedrals and tombs where his ancestors lived, dwelled and were buried. With a grin, he told me that during the wars of the Scottish clans, he had ancestors on both sides of the clashes. Although she knows some on her background, she's not that far back and so since she's definitely Irish, they will delve into her side and who knows, bet he and I will both find a new cousin. She did laugh that she used to crack a joke about having potato farmers in their background. Several years later, she was floored when a cousin confirmed that this was indeed true - no more joking! His favorite relative is also named "Richard," as in the lionhearted "due to his fierceness in battle and how he lead by example." This man knows about all that having been in the service himself a total of 23 years, eight as an active duty Marine, the rest in the Marine reserves. In fact, the 2 # 5 ounce at birth was barely four years old when he became determined to join the Marines. He stepped into his recruiter's car as soon as he stepped-off the stage receiving his diploma from CHS, weighing in at 88#. Evidently, he reached his top service weight of 130 by their rule he eat two meals per one. His radio pack weighed the exact same amount. He worked and served in many areas (Dessert Storm; Cold War and Homeland Security after 9-11) as a Staff Sgt (radio chief).

She wowed me when I asked if there was anything else exciting we had not discussed. "Well, I'm a surrogate mother!" I thought, "Is she serious?" Yep, she was. She babysat with a little girl and fell in love with her as well as becoming super friends with her mother. When the momma discovered there would never be another child, she was simply devastated. After thinking and praying on it, Dawn told her she'd have a baby for her.

Everything went beautifully regarding the stored eggs and all the birth aspects. With two children of her own, Dawn told them right off that the child (a son) she was carrying was a gift from God to the other family. Her girls were Audrina (from V.C. Andrews' "My Sweet Audrina") who was "like lightning in a jar," but sadly passed away in 2015 leaving three blessings behind, two sons and a daughter. Victoria, "Tori" lives with her husband in Michigan and is going to college online in business and really loves it. They have a son and daughter. Gwennie Rose, Dawn's third daughter is now 23 and works at Walmart Optical and loves her dog.

Dawn Cox-Groves is also very proud of a couple of stepsons, Steven who is in the Air Force, living in Abilene, Texas with a gorgeous wife and two beautiful little girls. New hubby, Richard Groves' son, Jacob lives in Lebanon, works for the city of Zionsville, spent four years in the Marines like his father and incidentally grandfather, too. He and his lovely wife have two fur babies, at least for now.

So, you know Richard loves genealogy but he also really enjoys doing WWII reenactments and is an amateur ghost buster. Besides all that, he spent time in the sheriff's department, Ladoga Children's Home and the Indiana Department of correction. He is currently disabled but is hoping to find a job with the government.

She loves to read, which goes along perfectly working for Wanda Bennett at the Ladoga Library several years. Her first job when quite young was at Willie's (Dreyer & Sheets) for her gpa' Willie Sheets. Her biggest dream she says is right at 109 Washington Street. I looked at her funny and said, "Why there?" Her answer was that it was because it was available, open for her Antique Store she's dreamed of opening. Hoping that'll work out, Dawn!

Discussing their health, I felt a wee bit guilty having ordered a special treat of cinnamon sticks for us, but not too guilty since they were so yum. She said, "I told him I expected at least 40 years out of this marriage." I'm hoping, too and thank you so much for being this week's ATC guests!



Dawn and Richard,
photo by Richard from their Facebook page.