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-Adair County Democrats

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Their children are extremely excited to share a little about their story to celebrate this amazing milestone!

John of Laurens and Lake City, IA and Harriet of Watertown, SD, met at the University of South Dakota in 1971. After a few months of being friends, the pair starting dating despite Harriet only knowing John as his nickname, Cubby! After graduating in the Spring of 1972, they went their separate ways for a (short) while. Harriet moved to Adair and started teaching at Adair-Casey Elementary School. while John moved to Des Moines and was a professional scouter for the Boy Scouts of America. Most weekends John the long trek back to Lake City to help his dad with his construction and lumberyard business. When John's car broke down, he convinced Harriet to drive to Des Moines, pick him up, and drive him to Lake City. A friendship and relationship evolved from those trips...one that is still going strong 50 years later!

John and Harriet were married in the middle of a blizzard at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Lake City on February 3, 1973. After the wedding, they moved into the Schwartzkopf Apartments in Stuart which served as a nice middle ground between their respective workplaces. Their apartment was across the hall from another young couple - Steve and Regina James - the first of many lifelong friends they made in Stuart.

After their first child, Peter John, was born in 1976, John and Harriet relocated into what is now Mary Pease's house. John took a new job at the Ace Hardware store in Stuart, and before long the family welcomed daughter Susan Maxine in 1979 and son Timothy Benjamin in 1982. The Gulbransons moved to Des Moines in 1984 where John took a position with Central Tractor as an inventory manager and Harriet started teaching at St. Theresa's Catholic School. They moved into a small apartment for a short time until they found their second house together in Beaverdale. In 1987, their fourth child, Patrick Renn, was born and in 1990 the family moved back to Stuart and into the home where they have lived for the past 33 years. Harriet taught 3rd grade at Adair-Casey Elementary School and John commuted to Des Moines for a time. Not long after moving back to Stuart, however, John switched careers and took a managing Shaw-Belden Insurance Agency in Stuart.

In 1992 John and Harriet welcomed their fifth child, James Lee. After a little over 11 years at Adair-Casey, Harriet took a job at West Central Valley Elementary School teaching 5th grade and eventually taught Middle School where she retired in 2016—ending a career spanning over 40 years (although she continues to substitute almost daily.) John continued to work for Shaw-Belden until his retirement in 2015.

Over the years they have been very active in the communities in which they live including serving on municipal committees, school board, All Saints and St. Theresa's Catholic Churches, the Boy Scouts of America Pack and Troops 71 and 167, Good Egg Days, their respective fraternal organizations, and their children's many passions. Nowadays, they are enjoying life as a retired couple. Harriet continues to substitute teach and John loves whittling away in his woodshop. Together, they love to travel all over the U.S., especially to visit their grandchildren Christopher (12), in Springfield, VA, and Henry (4) and Violet (2), in Davenport, as well as America's many National Parks located in places like Washington, Florida, and almost everywhere in between! Please join us and so many family and friends in celebrating John and Harriet's 50 years together!



Saturday, February 26 At the Dexter American Legion

Bring entries in after 4 p.m. & before 5 p.m. - \$5 Entry Fee

Voting will begin at 5 p.m. **SHARP!**

Chili Supper to start at 6 p.m. (after voting)

\$5 - ALL YOU CAN EAT SUPPER

*The Best Pot of Regular Chili

* 1st - 4th Will Win Cash

1st - \$100; 2nd • \$75; 3rd • \$50; 4th • \$25 All Participants May Receive A Prize!!

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OVER 30 ENTRIES WERE JUDGED!!