

LOVE: Child says parents always take care of each other

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"I thought, 'Oh, man — there she is again,'" he said. "She was just so cute. My buddy Mike had the presence of mind to get her number, so I called her the next day."

Their first date was simple. "We just took a walk at Eagle Point Park," Jan said. "Then we started dating. We went to (Knights of Columbus) dances and ramp dances."

It was the Vietnam War era, and Dave had graduated from Dubuque Senior High School. The draft lottery was still in effect, and Dave drew number 15, a low number which was a sure bet he would be drafted.

"My friend said, 'Well, you're going,'" he said. "And then he got number 30, and I said, 'You're going with me.' We decided to enlist rather than wait for that letter."

Dave proposed to Jan on the steps of Wahlert Catholic High School, where she was a student, before he left for basic training.

Dave was trained in security and assigned to Fort Leavenworth, Kan., as a prison guard. He came home on leave, and he and Jan were married on Sept. 15, 1972. They celebrated their golden anniversary last year.

The couple made their home near the prison, renting the bottom floor of a house for \$80 a month.

"Jan called it our love palace," Dave said.

Money was tight. Dave recalls a time when a clerical error left him without a paycheck for two weeks.

"There was a bag of aluminum cans on the back porch that someone had left," he said. "We took them to the grocery store and got the deposit money, which was enough for a loaf

"We never missed out on anything. They made it work, and they made sacrifices."

ERIN SELL, ON HER PARENTS

of bread and package of bologna. So that's what we ate for two weeks."

When Dave was discharged, he and Jan returned to Dubuque, where they bought Dave's childhood home. They had four children — Erin Sell, Matt, Beth Otto and Sarah. The couple also have five grandchildren.

Dave worked in security at John Deere Dubuque Works for 30 years before retiring in 2004.

"I walked in at 22 and walked out at 52," he said.

Jan worked in retail before taking a job as a teacher's associate at Resurrection School, where she worked for nine years. She went on to work for Dubuque Internal Medicine (now Grand River Medical Group) before retiring in 2014.

They moved to their current home in Asbury when their daughter Erin was 14.

"I have no idea how they put us all through Catholic school and took us on vacations and gave us the life that we had," said Erin, of Asbury. "We never missed out on anything. They made it work, and they made sacrifices."

Some of those sacrifices involved bartering, including Jan's famous chocolate chip cookies for a Christmas tree one year. Another year, they went to the Christmas tree lot on Christmas Eve and got a tree for a dollar.

Erin has fond memories of family vacations, even if they were sometimes a bit unorthodox.



Contributed

Jan and Dave Germain married on Sept. 15, 1972.

"We were going to Louisiana, and our minivan broke down before we left," she said. "We ended up having to take my dad's truck, and this wasn't spacious space like what trucks have now. One of us sat up front, and the rest of us had to sit in back. My brother and I took turns lying on the floor because we were so desperate to stretch out."

Dave, a talented woodworker, has been able to devote time to his hobby in his retirement. He makes boxes for veterans to display their medals and ribbons and works closely with each recipient for a custom-made heirloom.

Jan is a skilled cook. She also walks at least four miles a day and enjoys working in the yard and gardening. "I haven't mowed the lawn in 30 years," Dave said, laughing.

Erin always has been impressed

Know a long-married couple?

Love That Lasts is a series highlighting local couples who have been married for at least 50 years.

To nominate a couple to be featured in this series, contact reporter Michelle London at 563-588-5655 or michelle.london@thmedia.com. Be sure to include the couple's names, city of residence, contact information and how long they have been married.

with the thoughtfulness her parents show for each other.

"They do quite a bit for each other," she said. "They take turns making coffee while the other one stays in bed and reads the paper. It's just part of their everyday life to take care of each other."

Dave is also big on surprises. "They were on the (Mississippi) Riverwalk, and he had a friend of his who is a priest surprise her on their walk for a vow renewal," Erin said. "He's very intentional and thoughtful with everything he does."

Dave said the secret to their long marriage starts with the basics.

"You have to love each other to start with," he said. "And we always have. We've had a lot of hard times, and those really brought us together. It just makes you stronger."

Jan's answer is a bit more succinct. "He makes me laugh every day," she said.

Looking back on their double meet-cute more than 50 years ago, Jan and Dave both are sure the universe had a hand in it.

"Just that little tear in the matrix," Dave said.

"It was meant to be," Jan added.



DAVE KETTERING • Telegraph Herald

Traditions Barbershop owner Josh Smith works with customer Rob Kempf, of Manchester, Iowa, in his Manchester shop. Smith offers a straight-razor shave to the back of the neck after every service.

BARBER: Owner offers classic or modern cuts

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themselves. When you get a haircut, you feel good."

Smith is currently the only barber working in the shop, though he has another chair for someone else in the future. Smith said he currently is operating primarily by appointment, but he would like to accept walk-ins, too.

Smith said he offers both classic and more modern cuts, such as fades and tapers, as well as work on beards. He also offers a straight-razor shave to the back of the neck after every service.

"(Traditions Barbershop) just sounded right," he said of the name. "It's kind of an old-

business tips sought

Do you have an interesting story idea or news tip to share about a local business? Ideas can be shared with business reporter Kayli Reese at kayli.reese@thmedia.com or 563-588-5673.

school look. I want to keep the older traditions of barbering alive."

Traditions Barbershop is open from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday. The barbershop can be reached at 319-327-3273, and more information can be found on Facebook.

SKIES: Knights discuss why they love skydiving, how they joined

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accordingly."

On board the plane, the team listened to Queen's "Somebody To Love" on a speaker, helped one another into their yellow jumpsuits and attached the pyrotechnics to their boots.

After a quick flight to Hazel Green, the plane's pilot circled the area, waiting for team members to find the correct jump spot.

Sgt. 1st Class Roman Grijalva, of Boston, Mass., has been a member of the team since 2014 and logged over 2,800 free fall parachute jumps.

Grijalva said he started skydiving in 2011 while stationed in Hawaii.

"It just opened my mind to how small we are seeing everything from that different perspective," he said. "Once I landed and kind of processed what I had just done, I was like, 'I need to learn how to do that all the time.'"

Grijalva spent most of his time in the Army serving as an infantryman. Like Orozco, he wanted to see if he could transition his weekend passion of skydiving into a career.

"When I first told my mother this is what I would be doing, she was terrified, but then I was like, 'I can continue doing infantry stuff and go in Iraq and Afghanistan, or I can go jump out airplanes and travel the country,' and once she got that perspective, she was like, 'OK, go jump out airplanes,'" he said.

George, of Raeford, N.C., is the team leader of the black demonstration team. He spent most of the time before the jump leaning out of the open door of the plane, throwing yellow streamers out to gather in-

Tri-state area jumps

The U.S. Army Golden Knights will be featured in the Fireworks & Air Show Spectacular today in Dubuque.

The air show begins at 5:30 p.m. near A.Y. McDonald Park, south of Lock and Dam No. 11. The fireworks show begins at dusk.

The Golden Knights also will jump at 10:30 a.m. today at Eagle Ridge Resort and Spa near Galena, Ill., as part of the inaugural Honor Flight Charity Golf Outing. The jump is among events that are free and open to the public, though a donation is suggested to benefit Honor Flight of Dubuque and the Tri-States.

On Tuesday, July 4, the Golden Knights will jump at 12:45 p.m. as part of Golden Sky on the Fourth of July in Cassville, Wis. The community celebration will be held at the Cassville School Athletic Field.

formation on wind conditions.

"I tell everyone this is the worst airline: no snacks, movies, and they throw you out," Orozco joked before jumping.

After members of the team jumped, the only remaining Golden Knights aboard the aircraft were the two pilots.

One of the pilots, Chief Warrant Officer 2 Chris Guest, said he has flown for the Golden Knights for three years.

"It's an awesome opportunity just seeing different parts of the country," he said. "Without support from the public, we can't do what we love, so giving back to them really is the best part of it."

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almanac

Today is Monday, July 3, the 184th day of 2023. There are 181 days left in the year.

ON THIS DATE

- In 1775, Gen. George Washington took command of the Continental Army at Cambridge, Mass.
- In 1863, the pivotal three-day Civil War Battle of Gettysburg in Pennsylvania ended in a major victory for the North as Confederate troops failed to breach Union positions during an assault known as Pickett's Charge.
- In 1944, during World War II, Soviet forces recaptured Minsk from the Germans.
- In 1950, the first carrier strikes of the Korean War took place as the USS Valley Forge and the HMS Triumph sent fighter planes against North Korean targets.
- In 1971, singer Jim Morrison of The Doors died in Paris at age 27.
- On July 3, 1976, Israel launched its daring mission to rescue 106 passengers and Air France crew members being held at Entebbe Airport in Uganda by pro-Palestinian hijackers; the commandos succeeded in rescuing all but four of the hostages.
- In 1979, Dan White, convicted of voluntary manslaughter in the shooting deaths of San Francisco Mayor George Moscone and Supervisor Harvey Milk, was sentenced to seven years and eight months in prison. (White served only 5 years of his sentence and killed himself in October 1985.)
- In 1986, President Ronald Reagan presided over a gala ceremony in New York Harbor that saw the relighting of the renovated Statue of Liberty.
- In 1988, the USS Vincennes shot down an Iran Air jetliner over the Persian Gulf, killing all 290 people aboard.
- In 1996, Russians went to the polls to re-elect Boris Yeltsin president over his Communist challenger, Gennady Zyuganov, in a runoff.
- In 2011, Novak Djokovic won his first Wimbledon, beating defending champion Rafael Nadal 6-4, 6-1, 1-6, 6-3.
- In 2020, speaking at the foot of Mount Rushmore on the eve of Independence Day, President Donald Trump asserted that protesters pushing for racial justice were engaging in a "merciless campaign to wipe out our history."

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