

# XOXO

Valentine's Day – a day to celebrate love and the one you love – is just around the corner. What better way to contemplate the depth of love and maybe even learn a little about how to make your love last than to pick the brains of area couples who's love has withstood the test of time. Last month,

*Her Voice* requested the names of couples that have been married 60 years or more. The response was extraordinary – we received the names of more than a dozen couples. Time limitations made it impossible to talk with all the couples, but we thank them for contacting us and look forward to possibly using them as sources in future stories. We were able to talk to a few of the couples and we gleaned as much as we could about how they found success in love and marriage. Their stories are truly heartwarming.

We hope you enjoy them as much as we did.

Have a wonderful Valentine's Day!

## Jim and Lorraine Slade

July 15, 1951

60 years of marriage

Jim is a retired educator and Lorraine is a housewife. The couple has four sons: Daniel, Randy, Scott and Jeffrey; six grandchildren: Evan, Ryan, Samantha, Luke, Joe and Lennon; and three great-grandchildren: Lily, Jack and Tristan

Jim and Lorraine met in Plankinton, SD, in 1950.

Lorraine knew she would marry Jim when he left to join the Navy.

"I knew he would come back for me," she said.

Jim knew he would marry Lorraine when he came home on

leave from the Navy and asked Lorraine to meet his parents.

"I knew at the time I wanted her to become my lifetime mate," he said.

Lorraine said the best part of their relationship is their respect for their differences and appreciation of the many decisions they have made together.

Jim adds, "We work as a team and make decisions that are in the best interest of our family. Our love runs very deep. Lorraine is my friend, lover and wife."

Over the years, Jim's and Lorraine's love has grown.

Lorraine said the best years have been their later years together because they have time to reflect on their past together.

"Each year has had special meaning but our later years are so carefree knowing we have worked hard and hopefully raised a good family and enjoy looking back at all we have achieved," she said.

Jim said each segment of their marriage has meant different things to him.

"Early years are always filled with love and infatuation. Middle years are a time when give and take takes place," he said. "Usually there are children, which means each parent is less available because of maternal/paternal instincts. There has to be good communication between husband and wife. The latter years are less volatile and care for one another takes on a new meaning and the love and commitment to each runs much deeper. I can't imagine my life without Lorraine."

Lorraine gives this advice to newly married or soon-to-marry couples: "Give time for infatuation to grow into the understanding of what real love is."

Jim offers this, "A marriage requires a lot of give and take. Communication must be kept open at all times. Never keep secrets from one another because that violates trust. Always put your



## GESHUNDHEIT!

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Jeff Liudahl, MD

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