

**Allondra Pettway- 1<sup>st</sup> Place**

Congressional District Seven

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**“The Best Marriage I Know”**

My parents have the marriage I know. They are dedicated to each other. As far as I can tell they love each other, have been married longer than I’ve been alive, and respect and value each other’s morals.

What makes their marriage so great is that they’re completely different but still love each other. My parents are a mixed couple. My mom is Puerto Rican, but my dad is black, so they are completely different people who fell in love. At first, they couldn’t understand each other at all. But after two years of dating, they understood each other down to the deepest thought, and finally tied the knot.

They’ve been married since September 27, 1993; that’s two years more than I’ve been alive. I was born the day before their third anniversary, so it feels more like three years. My parents were elated when they became married because it started a new chapter in their lives. Sometimes their marriage was more than they could handle, but they stayed together through whatever came their way. Those trials of their love only added to their love and respect for each other.

The part of their marriage that I think is the greatest is how they respect and value each other’s morals. They may have bouts over why one does something they don’t understand, or politics, but they never let it get out of hand. Also, they have such an abundance of respect for each other; they are never disgruntled for long. I believe my parents are the perfect married couple. Each quality they share with the other is unique only to them.

As you can see, my parents have the best marriage I know. They have the most love, trust, respect, and appreciation for each other that I’ve ever seen a married couple share. I don’t know any other marriages like theirs. They were destined to meet since they joined the military. Their marriage will last them a lifetime, this is why their marriage is the best I know.