

Daishia Atwood- 3rd Place

Congressional District Seven

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Camden School of Arts & Technology

“The Best Marriage I Know”

The best marriage I know is bound by friendship and laughter and sealed with love. This special marriage endures between my grandparents. My grandparents names are Mary Mageline Pugh and Narcellius Pugh Sr. They are residents of Pine Hill, AL. They have been devoted to each other for forty-three years.

One day while my grandmother was attending a cook-out, one of her friends introduced her to my grandfather. They dated for seven years before getting married. They got married on December 11, 1965. They did not have a church wedding. Their vows were said among family and friends at the court house annex in Camden, Alabama.

During the old days, people got married while they were young. My grandmother was twenty-three and my grandfather was twenty-five when they married. During their time of unity, God blessed them with three boys. During her first pregnancy, my grandmother was very ill. Three months after the birth of her first son, he died. The doctor had told my grandmother she would never be able to have children. She was determined to have kids, and she did. She had two boys two years later.

My grandmother and grandfather worked very hard to support their family. My grandmother worked as a cook for twenty-five years and my grandfather as a conveyor at a wood chip mill for nearly thirty years. He is now retired. They share their day’s together reading, listening to old music, and watching T.V.

My grandmother and grandfather celebrate their wedding anniversary every year by looking at old photos of their children and grandchildren, while sitting crying on the bed. I asked her, "Why are you crying?" She said, "Those are tears of joy." My grandfather is always kissing and hugging on my grandmother. He loves to tell people how much he adores her. My grandfather said, "Marriage is like a job." He has good and bad days, but he always put God first in their marriage. I ask my grandparents what advice would you give to a couple that's about to get married? He said, "When you get married, you give up the I's for us."