

Nikki Newman – 2nd Place

Congressional District Six

Teacher: Melanie Peck

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“A Wonderful Marriage”

Roses are red, violets are blue, I know someone with a great marriage, how about you? My parents, Cinthia and Clayton Newman, have a wonderful marriage for a variety of reasons. One is that when they were married, they got married before my dad was shipped out to war. Another reason is that no matter how long they are apart, it doesn't affect anything at all. Lastly, no matter what happens, they get through the problems they are thrown; fights, misunderstandings, and time apart.

My parents were married on September 15, 1990, at the Saint Louis County Courthouse. They were married for a few months before my dad was shipped overseas to the Gulf War. Their wedding wasn't the normal big and grand wedding, but they didn't care. The reason that they were married like this was so that my dad would have someone to come home to and because they didn't know when he would be back home. My parents didn't even go on a honeymoon because my dad had to ship out, but they didn't care because they were happy together.

My dad has to travel a lot with the Navy and his civilian job as the Director of Engineering at John D. Archbold Memorial Hospital in Thomasville, Georgia. My dad is gone for the entire week and several weekends when he works at the Pentagon. This means that my mom has to take care of my sister Alyssa and me by herself when he isn't here, which can be very hard on her. My dad calls home every night no matter what he is doing to talk to my mom and us. When he is home he does a variety of different things for my mom. He has a honey-do-list whenever he gets home: stain the deck, fix the floodlight, clean the garage, mow the lawn, clean the pool, change the filter, and trim the hedges. My dad also spends time with my mom when he is home; he plays with her hair and rubs her back. He also sometimes takes us all out to dinner. You could never tell that he is gone so much unless someone in my family told you that he was.

Everyone has their arguments and disagreements, but not everyone tries or even wants to take the time to work out the problems. So instead they end up taking the easy way out of it. My mom and dad have their disagreements and arguments all the time over small things and big ones: taking out the trash, doing laundry, cleaning up, not finishing what was started, breaking promises, and not doing what was asked to be done. Even though they fight, they work it out by turning it into a joke, talking it out logically, and by realizing how stupid what their fighting about really is. My parents fight just like everyone else, but that doesn't mean that they don't love each other.

I've learned a lot from my parents, but if I had to pick one thing it would be that you can't let being apart tear you apart. I also learned that life is going to throw many surprise at you and you need to not let these surprises ruin what you have in your life already. So now you can see that my parents have a wonderful marriage because of how they were married, that being married doesn't change anything between them, and how arguments don't ruin their relationship or marriage. Next time you wonder who has a great marriage, think no further than my parents, and how much they love each other.