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## The Best Marriage That I Know

Most wedding vows today contain the phrases “For better or for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, from this day forward until death do us part.” These vows are common in many marriages, but few who recite them understand their meaning. However, the best marriage that I know stayed loyal to these vows, and remembered it to those final words “I do.”

My great grandparents, known to me as Mammy and Pop, had the best marriage that I knew. This marriage ended ten years ago, not because of divorce, but as the vows, “Death do us part” stated. The two of them cherished each other, supported each other, and loved each other for more than sixty years until their death finally parted them.

Our lives are inundated with the media showing us the glitz and glamour of Hollywood marriages. These marriages typically don’t last longer than the next season of hit television shows and usually end in a highly publicized divorce. People who admire these Hollywood stars lose sight of the true meaning of marriage and begin to emulate the bad examples they set for society. Young girls often dream of their wedding day with the focus being on the dress, the flowers, the decorations, and the cake. They picture a fairytale wedding for themselves. They spend large sums of money and time preparing for the wedding, yet they spent little or no time planning for their future with their new mate.

My Mammy and Pop did not have the glamorous and showy wedding that many people have today, however, what they did have was their support for one another, and their desire to share their lives together forever. The reason this marriage worked so well and lasted for a long time was because both the husband and wife knew they were not necessarily the perfect couple, but had to deal with all of the issues

life had in store for them. They know every couple experiences arguments and difficult times, but the true test of their marriage was in how they handled each situation. Mammy and Pop handled each situation by working together, compromising with each other, and relying on their faith to keep them going.

From my great grandparents' marriage, I have learned that while 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 states that love is patient and love is kind, people are not always. It is how we learn to love and treat one another that is important in life. Healthy marriages stem from the notion that marriage is a union for life regardless of any hardships and differences the couple may endure. They are built on a foundation of mutual respect, understanding, and consideration. My hope is that one day I will experience a marriage with a partner that not only loves and respects me, but one that will challenge me to be a better person with him than by myself. Here's to my Mammy and Pop for setting the standard for marriage!