ROBERT FARRAR’S HEART: WARMING JOURNEY

By KELLY HAMILTON

Photography ROBIN JERSTAD

With moist eyes, Robert Farrar shares a love story that started in childhood. The little girl next door unknowingly stole his heart when he was 10 years old. They lived an alley apart but from the day he saw “the prettiest little girl ever,” he knew she would be his. Time passed; they lost each other but a teenage party brought them back together and from that day they were a couple. Married six months later, their earthly story came to an end in 2006 but his love for her lives on.

Farrar joined the Marine Corps Reserves in January 1949 prior to marrying his wife, Joann Young. And in June of the same year, weeks after their wedding, he was called to service in Missouri in 2009 to be close to his son. He settled into town on Saturday and met his new birds Marie that next day at church services. Seemingly given a second chance at love, Robert and Marie married in Hawaii nine months after they met. Both having grown children, no one could agree on how the ceremony should proceed so the Farrars decided for everyone that they would spend their ceremony and honeymoon together in the islands and celebrate with family and friends upon their return home.

Much ado was made about the “quick” dating and “why so soon” engagement timeline to which both Robert and Marie laughed and said, “It’s not like we’re getting any younger!”

The Farrars have resided at Independence Hill Retirement Community for two years now and are active Bridge players and dinner socialites with their family of neighbors. His humble spirit is a joy to be around and is bolstered by Marie’s love and support. They both enjoy social time at dinner with their new family where Farrar’s name recall amazes people daily. He smiles broadly when announcing that he knows over 200 of his Independence Hill family member’s names.

As dedicated to their faith as two people can be, they attend church regularly at Park Hills Baptist and proclaim their love for Jesus Christ. Farrar enthusiastically states that “God is good all the time and all the time God is good.” Together, they enjoy their cozy cottage at Independence Hill where they love to sit together to read such books as O’Reilly’s “Killing Jesus.” An impressive feat, Farrar reads through his Bible twice last year and knows at least 200 verses by heart. The book of John speaks most strongly to him in that John was the last one to see Jesus and was the last one to write about him. “The closeness that they shared just speaks to me and there’s just something about him and the love he had for our Christ.”

There’s a palpable spirit of love that lives inside the home of Robert and Marie Farrar – the joy of friendship and the blessing of having another day together with family and friends.

For more information on Independence Hill Retirement Community please visit www.independencehill.com or call 210-615-4000.

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As the owner of his own business, Farrar’s dedication to his business and his clients reached an all-time high on a day when two employees were out sick and he was managing things alone. On this particular morning, he suffered an unfortunate mishap with the meat cutting machine. Unable to leave work, Farrar securely wrapped and gloved his severed finger and continued on with his work day until late evening when he could go to the doctor for medical attention. Fortunately, the doctor was able to reattach the digit and Farrar has full use of it to this day.

Farrar acknowledges that he felt lucky on a couple fronts: First, his wife had no idea how severe the injury was so she couldn’t interject, and second, the doctor was able to see him back together with no further complication.

Farrar laughs as he tells the story and carries on explaining that after decades in the business, that was his only major mishap with the saw. His oldest boy wouldn’t stay away from the saw; ultimately cutting his thumb off when he was 16. Farrar wrapped up the thumb, took his boy to the hospital and next thing he knew he woke up on a gurney. He could handle seeing any number of mishaps with his employees over the years but couldn’t deal with the trauma when it was his own child.

Because of that experience, his son became fascinated with emergency rooms; volunteering a day a week in hospitals went into a medical position in the military and is now a lab administrator for VA Hospitals in San Antonio. It seems the saw redeemed itself as it facilitated Farrar’s son finding his life’s passion from that unfortunate blade.

After 25 years in business, the Farrars packed up and moved back home to Missouri in 1984 where they lived out their marriage together until Joann’s passing in 2006. He settled into town on a Saturday and met his new birds Marie that next day at church services. Seemingly given a second chance at love, Robert and Marie married in Hawaii nine months after they met. Both having grown children, no one agreed on how the ceremony should proceed, so the Farrars decided for everyone that they would spend their ceremony and honeymoon together in the islands and celebrate with family and friends upon their return home.

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