

# *The North Fulton Marriage Newsletter*

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## **Golden Anniversary**

Today, July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2009, my parents, John and Linda Pruett, celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. This newsletter is written to them. Join me as we congratulate them and celebrate their lives together.

Mom and Dad, we are so very proud of you. You have reached another milestone and I know there are more milestones yet to come. You are true marriage survivors—you never gave up on each other and the vows you took 50 years ago today. Your marriage has survived in sickness and in health. Your marriage has survived through both “poorer” and then later “richer” as you both worked hard to build a business and save money. As a child, perhaps my greatest fear was that the two of you would divorce, and quite frankly there were times that I really thought that would happen. But it didn’t, you survived, and I am so thankful for that. Your marriage has survived clinical depression, anger and rage, a heart attack and dementia. Your marriage survived perhaps the greatest test a marriage can face, the loss of a child to death. And, though Robin is not here today to celebrate with us, I am going to speak for her: I know she is proud of you as well. Robin’s children remain her greatest legacy and they are your legacy too. Natalie and Julian have grown into wonderful young people, and we owe a lot of that to grandma and grandpa. Myself and my daughter will also remain your legacy, forever. And, without sounding too arrogant, you have A LOT to be proud of when it comes to myself and Delaney. Your son has become a professional counselor, and every day I have the opportunity to impact the lives of other people. Please know that you are impacting lives as well. I am who I am because of the two of you. At some point in my life, around the age of 29, I realized that I possessed an innate toughness. Dad, I owe that to you. Every day I take your toughness, resilience and entrepreneurial spirit with me as I build and expand my business. Thank you. Mom, I often tell people that long before I became a professional counselor, I was a listener and a helper. I owe that part of my personality to you. Thank you for teaching me how to be empathetic and sensitive to the needs of others. And, what can I say about Delaney, just look at her, that really says it all. She loves you two so much. Myself and Brinne are thankful and blessed to have such supportive grandparents. Thank you!

We know that your marriage is not perfect—no good marriage is—but you have held it together through the years by dotting on one another. You both remain two of the kindest people I have ever met in my life. You also both seem to have the ability to say “I’m sorry,” forgive one another and move on. That is so crucial. I often tell couples that I work with, if you learn nothing else, learn to say I am sorry and I forgive you. All couples fight, but not all couples learn how to recover from fights. I also think that humor has held your marriage together over the years, the ability to laugh together is so powerful. Thank you for passing along a good sense of humor to me. Quite frankly, humor has helped me put up with the two of you over the years! You both can be fascinatingly difficult to deal with. But, I love you unconditionally none the less. Both of you have spent your lives guiding and protecting your children and grandchildren. Please know now, as you both age, we are here to guide and protect you. The torch of kindness, caring and unconditional love has been passed on to myself, Delaney, Julian and Natalie. We will remain the shepherds of your spirit, God’s keepers of your kindness, forever. May you enter this new phase of your life with your heads held high, integrity in place, knowing that your legacy to all of those who love you so, has been completely fulfilled. May God bless you and keep you, always. Amen.

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