

# GATES-CHILI POST

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## Love stories that withstand test of time

Submitted to The Post

Although Valentine's Day was last weekend, the holiday encourages people to celebrate great relationships — whether they be young couples just beginning to date, newlyweds enjoying the freshness of marriage, or these widows from Westwood Commons whose marriages stood the test of time!

Theresa and Tom Filipski met in Buffalo in 1953 at a church dance. Tom impressed Theresa with his kindness and gentleness. The couple dated for three to four years while Tom was in the service.

"He proposed by giving me a box with a ring in it," she recalls. "No words. Just a box with a ring in it."

The couple was married at St. Stanislaus Kostka Church on May 5, 1956. The couple had two children, one grandchild and two great-grandsons. Tom passed away in



Marion and Jim Schmeer cut the cake at their wedding in 1947. SUBMITTED PHOTOS

2013. Theresa has been a resident at Westwood Commons for one year.

"The secret to a successful marriage is talking things out and agreeing to



Theresa and Tom Filipski were married in 1956.

disagree," Theresa said.

Marion and Jim Schmeer met in Rochester when he was painting a

neighbor's house. Marion was 14; Jim was 18. Marion fibbed and told him she was 16 so he

would talk to her.

"He was good looking and very nice," she recalls.

In another ploy to get his attention, Marion pretended to play piano on her family's player piano. Her plan worked! The couple dated for four years while Jim was in the Navy.

"He asked me to marry him out of nowhere and I said yes," she said.

The couple was married for 55 years before Jim passed away in 2002. They have five children, 13 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

A resident of Westwood Commons since June 2014, Marion said the secret to a happy marriage is to keep the romance alive!

"After you are married, go to the movies on a date, go out to dinner, go to church," she said. "Whatever you do, continue to date!"