



# State Winners for 2023 Longest Married Couple Project Announced by Worldwide Marriage Encounter

*The 2023 state winners of the 13th annual Longest Married Couple Project, sponsored by WWME, the original marriage enrichment program, were announced today.*

SAN BERNARDINO, CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES, November 30, 2023 /EINPresswire.com/ -- The 2023 state winners of the 13th annual [Longest Married Couple](#) Project, sponsored by Worldwide Marriage Encounter (WWME), the original faith-based marriage enrichment program in this country, were announced today.

"We are very pleased that over 100 nominations were received and that we have 38 state winners and 1 national winner," said Peter and Sheila Oprysko and Fr. Dennis O'Brien, the United States Leadership Team for WWME.

"As we did with the national winners, Charles and Goldia Sasse of Fairbury, Illinois, who are married 79 years, the state winners will be honored personally by other Worldwide Marriage Encounter couples," they explained. The state winners will be recognized during December or at a time convenient for the winning state couple and their families.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter created the project to highlight marriage in America and to show young couples that marriage really can go the distance. Winners of the project are automatically made members of the Worldwide Marriage Encounter Longest Married Couple Project Alumni group.

The leadership team also pointed out that the project is based on nominations received from June to September of the current year. They also said there were no nominations this year from several states.

The list of the 2023 state winners and their hometowns and wedding dates are as follows:

## Alaska

Larry & Cathy Ward, Anchorage, AK 4/7/1969 54 years

## Arkansas

David & Julia Rogers, Prairie View, AR 2/5/1948 75 years

## California

Antonio L. Rocha & Pauline Rocha, Norwalk, CA 5/15/1948 75 years

## Colorado

Louis & Martha Gagliano, Arvada, CO 12/1/1956 65 years

## Connecticut

Russell & Pauline DeMarco, New London, CT 1/17/1953 70 years

## Florida

George & Maurine Schaffer, Tallahassee, FL 9/25/1951 71 years

## Georgia

Jack & Angel Labate, Cumming, GA 8/6/1961 62 years

## Hawaii

Arthur & Betty Ventura, Kula, HI 5/10/1952 71 years

## Iowa

Archie & Betty Hindal, Des Moines, IA 9/6/1947 76 years

## Illinois

George & Jeannette Westendorf, Teutopolis, IL 6/25/1955 68 years

## Indiana

David & Dorothy Sewnig, Dyer, IN 6/30/1951 72 years

## Kentucky

John & Mary Ann Vanderveer, Springfield, KY 6/24/1967 56 years

## Louisiana

George & Dolly Huhner, Jefferson, LA 8/12/1950 73 years

## Massachusetts

Aires & Maria Cabral, Fall River, MA 7/26/1959 64 years

## Maryland

Mel & Jean Marshalek, Parkville, MD 9/1/1951 72 years

## Maine

Ronald & Sheila Moody, Troy, ME 9/11/1965 58 years

## Michigan

Robert (Bob) & Verda Foy, Goodrich, MI 6/6/1953 70 years

#### Minnesota

John & Lillian Larson, St. Paul, MN 5/30/1948 75 years

#### Missouri

Rene & JoAnn Lusser, Saint Louis, MO 12/2//1963 59 yrs

#### Montana

Fred & Lorraine Schell, Lewistown, MT 6/18/1949 74 years

#### North Carolina

George & Marie Scalco, Cary, NC 4/25/1954 69 years

#### North Dakota

Vince & Georgiana Hibl, Dickinson, ND 6/4/1954 69 years

#### Nebraska

Robert & Bernadine Buresh, Fremont, NE 6/27/1953 70 years

#### New Jersey

Justo & Josefa Figueroa, Ewing, NJ 1/01/1966 57 years

#### Nevada

Felix & Linda Rivera, Henderson, NV 7/9/1971 52 years

#### New York

Mr. Hwang, Ik Soo & Mrs. Hwang,  
Bok Soo, New York, NY 5/18/1955 68 years

#### Ohio

Ramon & Ana Luisa Rodriguez, Cincinnati, OH 9/26/1976 48 years

#### Oklahoma

John & Tena Franklin, Edmond, OK 6/26/1965 58 years

#### Oregon

Ted & Arlyn Brandt, Eugene, OR 9/2/1952 71 years

#### Pennsylvania

John & Rosemary Kleinfelder, Philadelphia, PA 6/1/1962 62 years

#### South Carolina

Mary Joe & Robert Hatala, Mt Pleasant, SC 7/15/1958 65 years

South Dakota

Roger & Sharon McCollar, Sioux Falls, SD 9/1/1962 61 years

Texas

Dick & Ruby Maxwell, Sinton, TX 11/1/1950 72 years

Virginia

Roy & Valerie Naquin, South Riding, VA 6/13/1953 70 years

Vermont

Daniel & Joyce Menard, Burlington, VT 9/27/1951 71 years

Washington

Joe & Helen Hasketh, Bellevue, WA 6/5/1954 69 years

Wisconsin

Charles & Rosemary Ovans, Milton, WI 6/8/1946 76 years

Wyoming

Tony & Frances Ortega, Cheyenne, WY 4/21/1951 72 years

Dick & Diane Baumbach

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