

**Barb and Nancy
Cathedral Ledge
August 13th, 2020
7:00 am**

Welcome:

Let me begin by welcoming you here to New Hampshire!

You have traveled here today to celebrate your relationship, to join your lives together in a marriage filled with hopes, dreams, and adventures.

Barb and Nancy, you have chosen to make your commitment to one another in the State of New Hampshire because of its beauty and romantic atmosphere, and so shall we reflect on the beauty and romance of your bond.

In marriage we not only say, “I love you today,” but also, “I promise to love you tomorrow, the next day and always.”

Marriage is a solemn pledge to trust and appreciate; to respect and cherish each other’s uniqueness; to support, comfort and strengthen one another through life's joys and sorrows.

Marriage is a commitment to both self-growth and to the growth of your relationship. It is a promise to be honest and to communicate the needs and feelings of each other, just as it is a promise to listen.

Marriage is an assurance to be a loving friend and partner.

Marriage is a promise to share mutual hopes and dreams as you build your life together from this day forward.

Your marriage this morning atop this mountain represents the opportunities that surround you and the life together that awaits you. You share something rare and beautiful together. Always remember you are each other's best friend. Cherish, support and enjoy each other always.

Suggestions to the couple:

At this time, I would like to share three suggestions with the both of you:

My first suggestion is this:

Be constantly grateful for this precious person who has chosen to make a life with you.

My second suggestion is this:

Be generous with compliments. Be attentive and helpful. The world can be a tough place and any of us can be subject to rough handling. Both of you can, by your tenderness toward each other, through kind words and thoughtful actions, make your marriage and your home an uplifting refuge.

Lastly, but perhaps most importantly:

Make *truth* the unfailing bedrock of your lives together. A happy, loving marriage is built on trust and respect. That trust and respect can only be sustained if you are both deeply committed to always being open and truthful in every exchange no matter how small.

My hope for you is this:

To a make home together that is at once sheltering and welcoming.

To each, do meaningful and productive work at home and in the world, to love and be loved by your friends and family.

That you have many long years to delight in each other's company, to feel gratitude for your great fortune in having found each other.

Vows:

You have written your own vows and we'll begin with Barb

Barb: reads personal vows

Nancy: reads personal vows

Intentions:

Barb and Nancy, by coming here today, you have reached a crossroad in your lives. You're turning away from your yesterdays and looking ahead to your tomorrows. Your past is a distant memory, your future a pending adventure. It is a new dawn, a new commitment, a new life. The bond you are forging today will change your lives forever.

Do you, Barb, promise to take Nancy to be your wife? To play with her and to care for her; to make her laugh, and allow her to cry? To offer your best counsel and give your sincerest support with all the love you have to give?

"I do."

Is it your choice that Nancy be the one with whom you wish to spend the rest of your life?

"It is."

Do you, Nancy, promise to take Barb to be your wife? To play with her and to care for her; to make her laugh, and allow her to cry? To offer your best counsel and give your sincerest support with all the love you have to give?

"I do."

Is it your choice that Barb be the one with whom you wish to spend the rest of your life?

“It is.”

Rings:

Rugby, will you now come forward with your treasured gifts for Barb and Nancy?

Barb, what token do you offer to Nancy as a sign you will keep your vows?

Response: “This ring.”

Barb, as you place the ring on Nancy’s finger, please repeat after me:

This ring, with its unending circle
symbolizes my everlasting love for you.
With this ring, I give you my promise
that from this day forward you will not walk alone.
May my heart be your shelter and my arms be your home.
Placing this ring on your finger is the fulfillment of my
dreams,
to have you as my best friend, my lover, my wife,
to live as one forever.

Nancy, what token do you offer to Barb as a sign you will keep your vows?

Response: "This ring."

Nancy, as you place the ring on Barb's finger, please repeat after me:

This ring, with its unending circle
symbolizes my everlasting love for you.
With this ring, I give you my promise
that from this day forward you will not walk alone.
May my heart be your shelter and my arms be your home.
Placing this ring on your finger is the fulfillment of my
dreams,
to have you as my best friend, my lover, my wife,
to live as one forever.

Pronouncement:

Today I am privileged to share with you the moment that you begin your life together. In the years ahead, may your love be a shield from the unpredictability of life. May you remember to rejoice in good times and good fortune and may you always appreciate the life that you have found with each other.

You have kissed a thousand times, maybe more ... but today the feeling is new. No longer simply partners and best friends, you

have become loving wives and devoted co-guardians of your cherished furry and feathered family.

So now, it gives me great pleasure to say:

By the power vested in me by the State of New
Hampshire, I now pronounce you happily married!

You may now seal this agreement with a kiss as you embark your life's journey together!