

“Celebrating 72 Years Together”

Client Spotlight written by Erinn Sentner-Mule, Education & Outreach Coordination, Julian Gray Associates

Julian Gray Associates recently learned that our longtime clients, John and Clara Bozek celebrated 72 years of marriage this past September! They were kind enough to share their story with us.

John and Clara met while John was serving in the US Army Air Force in the early 1940's. Following World War II, John returned to their hometown of Detroit, Michigan to attend college and he spent the next three years courting Clara before getting married on September 6, 1948.



Clara and John on a date on June 3, 1945

Following their wedding, they spent a few years living in Washington D.C. while John attended the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service and Clara worked at the Pentagon. They eventually returned home to Detroit to buy their first home and start their family.

The Bozek's decided to move to New Jersey where they raised their four sons and one daughter. They have many fond memories of the years there together. They were known for coordinating all-day tailgates at near-by West Point, where two of the boys attended and played football. All four sons eventually followed in their father's footsteps by serving in the military.

After retirement, they wanted to downsize and decided moved here to Pittsburgh where their daughter is located. They have been Pittsburgh residents for over 22 years, eight of which have been at Brookdale Senior Living.

Two years ago, the entire family came together to surprise John and Clara for a very special celebration of their 70th wedding anniversary back in Detroit at the Dearborn Inn; the exact location where the couple stayed following their wedding back in 1948. They were grateful for this time together with all of their family because this year's anniversary looked quite different with the restrictions from COVID-19. They were, however, able to enjoy their 72nd anniversary with a special dinner together on the outdoor space at the Back Porch Restaurant.

John and Clara “have always meshed together well and rarely argued”, according to Mr. Bozek. Through the years, they would make a point to sit down after a long work-day to talk and connect while enjoying a cocktail together before sitting down with the rest of the family for dinner. This was just one of their ‘secrets’ to their long and happy marriage!



John and Clara Bozek - 70th Anniversary Dinner