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Local Couple Celebrates 72 Years of Matrimony

OLD BRIDGE –One couple’s happily ever after has far surpassed the norm.

Louis Luczu Jr. and his long-time bride, Julia Luczu, celebrated 72 years of wedded bliss at Roosevelt Care Center at Old Bridge this week.

An intimate gathering of family, a few congratulatory slices of cake and several well wishes helped make the Luczu’s anniversary party Saturday, all the more memorable.

Julia Luczu, 91, recently took up residency at Middlesex County’s long-term care facility.

Since then, she and her husband have become the fourth-floor sweethearts, passing the time sipping coffee, taking short excursions and exchanging playful banter during Louis Luczu’s frequent visits.

“If the weather’s alright, you’ll see Louis here,” said Erica Muldoon, a social worker with Roosevelt Care Center at Old Bridge.

The couple met in New Brunswick at the Ascension Lutheran Church’s Thanksgiving dinner, where a young girl’s red locks caught Louis Luczu’s eye.

By March 7, 1942, a then 18-year-old Julia Varga was exchanging nuptials with a 21-year-old Louis Luczu, who was headed off to World War II as an Army draftee.

“We didn’t have much time together but we knew we were compatible,” he said. “I didn’t see her for two years.”

The soldier finally returned from his tours in the Persian Gulf and Germany and shortly thereafter, the Luczu duo became a trio with the birth of their son.

By the 1960s, the family had built a homestead in North Brunswick.

A former instrument maker at Princeton University, Louis Luczu officially retired from his position in 1964. Similarly, Julia Luczu retired from her job as an inspector with Quaker Oats a few years prior.

Now in the twilight of their life, both husband and wife have their own take on the secret to a happy marriage.

“You learn to bite your tongue,” a still wily Julia Luczu said, donning her signature grin.

As for Louis Luczu, he believes that today’s young couples could learn a thing or two from his generation of “Depression kids.”

“If you have problems, you work them out,” he said. “You don’t just pack up and leave.”

For more information on Roosevelt Care Center at Old Bridge, an operation overseen by the Middlesex County Improvement Authority, interested parties should contact staff at 732-360-9830 or by logging onto www.rooseveltcarecenter.com.

MEDIA CONTACT: Jane Leal, 609-655-5141, jl@mciauth.com