

Dear Friends,

I'm writing today to share some heartwarming news. Last week, I received a phone call from the trustee of the estate of Dot and Rusty Pendleton, who let us know Komen Missouri had been named as a beneficiary of their trust. The couple had been married over 72 years when Dot passed last year at the age of 92. Rusty passed away earlier this year at the age of 95-1/2, and the trustee was helping settle their affairs.

The trustee shared with me this couple's story — how they met 79 years ago as teenagers at a Boy Scout barn dance in 1940, how they had to wait to marry until Rusty returned from WWII where he fought in the Battle of the Bulge, how they raised Dot's two younger brothers after her widowed father died, how they raised a son together, how they worked hard and saved for their own future, yet set aside money to share — as well as some 'fun' money too. He also shared that Dot had survived breast cancer.

The Pendletons listed a number of family members and friends as beneficiaries of their estate, and they included just two institutions -- their church, and Susan G. Komen Missouri. I got misty-eyed thinking about that. What an awesome testament to the work we do. Our organization is one of the recipients of this couple's ultimate gift, their final act of generosity. To be named alongside their place of worship and the people who were most close to their hearts is an incredible honor.

We are filled with gratitude to the Pendletons for this gift and we are inspired to put it to use to serve the mission to end breast cancer forever. We will do our best to ensure it helps more people live long and fulfilling lives like theirs.

Thank you for supporting Komen Missouri -- it is because of YOU that we are recognized by others as an outstanding organization that will one day achieve the vision of a world without breast cancer.

Gratefully,

Suzanne Fontaine
Executive Director
Susan G. Komen Missouri



Dot and Rusty in the mid 2000s.



Dot and Rusty, after WWII, c. 1948, after Rusty got his pilot's license.