

Worldwide Marriage Encounter

SAN BERNARDINO, CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES, November 12, 2024

The 2024 state winners of the 14th 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 70 nominations were received and that we have 23 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, Thell & Margie Ellison of Natural Dam, Arkansas, who are married 83 years, the state winners will be honored personally by other Worldwide Marriage Encounter couples,” they explained. State winners will be recognized at a time convenient for the winning state couple and their families.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter created this 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 2024 state winners are as follows:

California - William and Ann Flood married 70 years

Colorado - William and Ruth Carew married 70 years

Connecticut - Tom & Joan Gunning married 66 years

District of Columbia – Joe & Jill Biden married 47 years

Florida - Dick & Diane Baumbach married 57 years

Georgia - Charley and Ida-Marie Anton married 60 years

Illinois - Bob and Marge Hall married 80 years

Iowa - Allan and Frances Doughan married 75 years

Maryland - John and Floss Booth married 54 years

Massachusetts - Norman and Natalie Alves married 71 years

Minnesota - Don & Myrtle Brand married 70 years

Missouri - John and Gay Barton married 73 years

Nebraska - Matt & Thelma Schumacher married 76 years

New Jersey - Frank and Migdalia Fernandez married 53 years

Nevada - Frank and June Scholes married 73 years

New York - Dominick and Marion Gaudioso married 71 years

North Carolina - Bobby & Melanie Caples married 50 years

North Dakota – Henry & Genevieve Fleck married 73 years

Pennsylvania - Earl and Marlene Gross married 60 years

South Dakota - David & Derla Simons married 65 years

Texas - Mercedes & Florinda Trevino married 67 years

Virginia - Bill and Carol Hogan married 64 years

Washington - Arnold and Catherine Finkbonner married 71 years

Wisconsin - Mary and Jerry Gorski married 73 years

For inquiries contact:

Paul & Robin Ring at +1 321-633-1531

Worldwide Marriage Encounter Longest Married Couple Project Coordinators