

## ♥♥ ~ Valentine's Day Love Story ~ ♥♥

### **FOR A (combined) 164-YEAR-OLD COUPLE, IT'S A FIRST VALENTINE'S DAY!**

**At 85-Years Old, this Former U.S. Marine Captain  
is *Still Running Marathons* and *Catching the Love Bug*  
for his FIRST Valentine's Day with his Sweetheart!**

*Independent Housing Tenant and a Nursing Home Resident Find Love*

**NEW YORK, NY**, February 3, 2015 – When Isabella House resident, **William Hamilton, 85**,

started feeling a bit a bit lonely, his daughter, Melissa, suggested that he get a dog to keep him company. The former United States Marine Captain immediately responded, *"I don't want a darn dog. I want a lady-friend for companionship."* Within months, William fulfilled his desire and met **Anne Mule, 79**, a resident from the attached Isabella nursing home. Their relationship has blossomed over the last 11 months. They look forward to celebrating their very first Valentine's Day together this month!



#### **Love at First Sight**

When William laid eyes on her, he was smitten. He had his first glimpse of Anne at a Shakespeare group at Isabella House, an independent housing complex for elders in Upper Manhattan, and thought she was very attractive. He even told his daughter he saw someone he liked. Yet, literary puritan that he is, William stopped attending after becoming disenchanted with the program content. He humphs, *"They read and acted out everything BUT Shakespeare -- just Noel Coward, Tennessee Williams, Oscar Wilde and others."*

Another missed encounter at the elevator prevented William from the possibility of striking up a conversation with the well-dressed septuagenarian. One afternoon, he bumped into Anne in the laundry room. Seizing the opportunity, he asked if she was interested in taking a stroll, to which she replied, *"Yes."* Without missing a beat, he inquired, *"How about this afternoon?"* That was a start to their beautiful relationship.

Their walks through their Washington Heights neighborhood often lead up to longer ones over the George Washington Bridge to Fort Lee, where they pause for a break and some good conversation over a cup up coffee before heading back.

## **Finding Love: Two Seniors Celebrate their First Valentine's Day together at Isabella *con't***

*For media inquiries: Roberta Bouer, (212) 996-0443*

### **William's Interests Amaze Anne**

The distinguished-looking William impresses Anne with his bravery as a Korean and Viet Nam War veteran and takes her breath away with his knowledge. *"Whatever I'm interested in knowing about, he can always shed light on the subject,"* she marvels. Originally heralding from Maine and for many years owning a business as a lobster catcher, William holds a double Masters in Education and American History. He is also an authority on everything Jane Austen. He admits that his fascination contributes to his romantic side. Anne boasts about the roaring success of last year's 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Tea Party (in honor of Austen's third novel, *Mansfield Park*), which was organized by William for his Isabella House friends and acquaintances.

This active 85 year-old is still an avid marathon runner, which he's been doing for the last 40 years. William now runs one race per month, often through the New York Road Runners Club. He completed a 4K on February 1<sup>st</sup> and plans to participate in the local Washington Heights annual event, the Shamrocks & Salsa run on March 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **Thriving with Romance**

When Anne and William hold hands on the subway en route to a Lincoln Center opera or a Broadway musical, passers-by often ask to take a photo of the stylish couple. Anne chuckles, *"When people ask how long we've been married, we just tell them 60 years and walk off hand-in-hand giggling!"*

Both have an interest in history and music. They like to explore places neither has been -- like NYC icons such as the Statue of Liberty and the Empire State Building. Hitting a local pub to hear Anne's son play in a band or heading to a downtown lounge to listen during his daughter's singing engagement keeps this couple young at heart. William nurses a beer, and Anne sips a ginger ale, and both share a twinkle in their eye for each other.

On average, they have four dates a week. Sometimes they get all dressed up; other times they cuddle and watch old movies together. William says, *"If we see each other everyday, we'll really be like an old married couple. I like to keep it fresh."* But Anne adds, *"He comes to see me every night just to say goodnight. That means the world to me."*

Anne whispers, *"William is my first true romantic interest since divorcing in 1978. He makes me feel like a new person. I think about him everyday. I think this must be love."*

**So what will the couple do to mark their first Valentine's Day together?** *"I've been thinking about it,"* says William, nodding with a grin. *"I could write her another sonnet. And there's a nice romantic French restaurant that Anne likes on 47<sup>th</sup> Street. We might start there and stop by Cougan's Pub for a soda and beer and listen to some music while basking in the glow of holding my very dignified lady's hand."*

**BACKGROUND: Isabella**, a pioneer in caring for adults since 1875, is located in the Washington Heights area of Manhattan. As part of the 705-bed nursing home, Isabella offers enhanced programming and short and long-term rehabilitation at the new Rehabilitation Center at Isabella. This nonprofit also offers independent living for seniors in Isabella House. Isabella's community-based programs are designed to promote education and healthy aging in the community and include Isabella Care at Home, Inc. (CHHA), Isabella Visiting Care, (LCHSA), Adult Day Health Care, Child Day Care, two NORC Programs, a Benefits Enrollment Program and the Institute for Older Adults. Visit [www.Isabella.org](http://www.Isabella.org) and/or [www.Facebook/Isabella.org](https://www.facebook.com/Isabella.org) for more information.

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