

JANICE BARRIER AND SHERIE SCHILD

MARRIED 5 YEARS • TOGETHER 33 YEARS

JAN AND SHER

Jan was the St. Louis Area Director for the U.S. Department of Labor-OSHA, retiring after 30 years of service. Sher was a preschool and elementary school teacher, homemaker and has been self-employed.

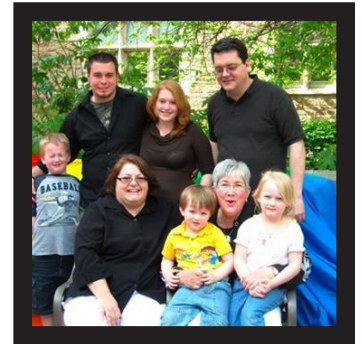
HOW THEY MET

A mutual friend introduced them in the summer of 1981. It was love at first sight. Jan learned that Sher was compassionate, kind, honest and responsible and Sher found Jan to be intelligent, hardworking and confident. On Labor Day, the couple made a private commitment to each other and to God of their fidelity and love. The couple has been living together ever since, sharing financial resources and responsibilities as well as caring for one another as life-partners.



WHY MARRIAGE MATTERS

Financial recognition of their marriage has been the greatest advantage. After retirement in 2007, Jan and Sher were unable to make ends meet due to the high cost of Sher's health insurance and medical bills. Sher has been a survivor of bilateral breast cancer since 1996, and a survivor of thyroid cancer since 2001. Sher contributed to the family's income, but spent her life-savings on medical care. In 2009, Jan had to declare bankruptcy as a single filer, primarily due to the cost of Sher's medical and household costs and tax burden. Jan had to cash-out the Federal government's version of a 401(k) prior to the age of 50 to pay for Sher's medical costs. Additionally, Jan was not able to file jointly to reduce her tax burden, nor have spousal medical costs considered. In 2009, Jan started a second career at Citimortgage to secure domestic partner health benefits covering Sher. At the time, her Federal health insurance benefit failed to recognize Sher as her spouse. Jan worked until she was diagnosed with rectal cancer in June of 2012. They are concerned that if either one of them would need nursing home services they would be prohibited from caring for one another.



THEIR MARRIAGE

As a team, Jan and Sher have been the loving primary caregivers for many family members. In 1974, Jan became the legal guardian for her 10-year old brother, Walter, following the death of her parents from cancer. Both Sher and Jan cared for him. Sher ran the family business. Sher cared for their Mother, Arline, in their home. They cared for their developmentally delayed Uncle and their Grandmother. Sher handled the finances, ensuring the family members received custodial and medical care. In their home, they also cared for a nephew who had emotional and learning disabilities.



ACLU

AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION
of MISSOURI

FOUNDATION

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Diane Balogh, 314-669-3425, dbalogh@aclu-mo.org
Robyn Shepherd, 212-519-7829, rshepherd@aclu.org