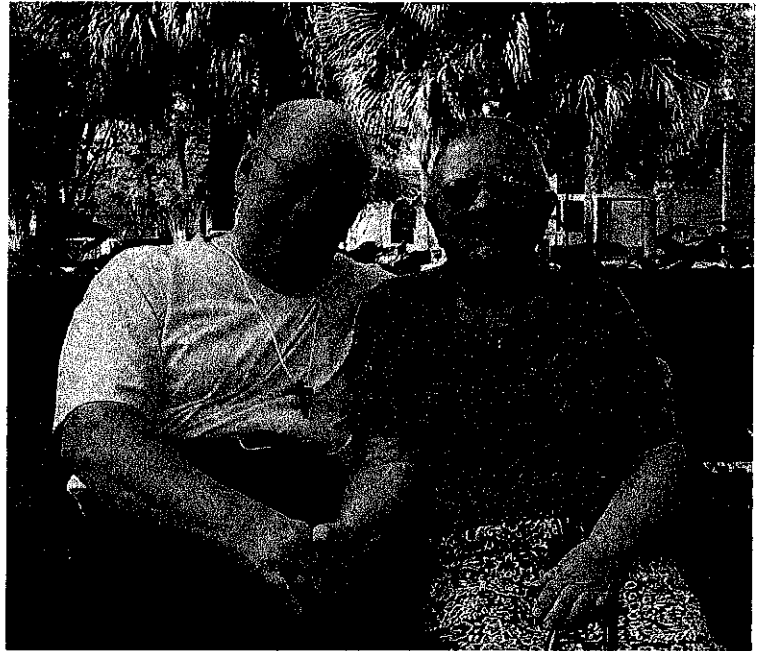
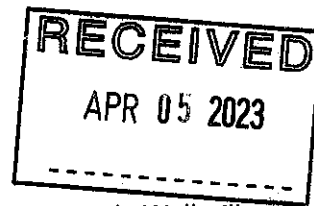


*One year in Florida and  
60 years of Marriage*



*Diamond Anniversary  
1962 - 2022*



We were married in 1962. In 2008, Luther and I (Shirley) purchased property in Wellsville, PA where we planned to relax on our front porch, care for our large front yard and flowerbeds. Unfortunately - that did not happen as you will see below. Our son was in the Navy and returned in 2010 and his three children loved to play in our big front yard.

From then until 2014, Luther had some health problems, but in 2014 his health became worse when he was diagnosed with seizures in November.

In August 2015, Luther was diagnosed as having Stage III-C Colon Cancer. He had surgery for his Colon Cancer on September 28, 2015 by using "Laser". Luther seemed to come out of surgery "very well" the first few days. Unfortunately, in about four (4) to five (5) days, he started to become unresponsive. I notified our Daughter. She and her husband left Florida and came to stay with me. When we got to the hospital the next morning, they advised that Luther was going into the ICU and would be having "emergency surgery" that evening. An infection was going through his body. Surgery performed with "hands on" by the surgeon who was in charge on the 28<sup>th</sup>. He came out of this surgery with an open wound from his navel to the bottom of his stomach, a wound vac and a colostomy bag. During the initial "Laser Surgery" a spot on the colon had not been completely closed, leaving unwanted substance (bowel) to go through the body.

By the middle of October 2015, the doctors decided that Luther was well enough to go to a rehabilitation facility. He was there for about three (3) to four (4) days – when I walked in and found him in bed, white as a sheet. Bloody sheets were by his bed. He should have been up and had his breakfast by that time. Found out that the wound vac had stopped working and he was bleeding. The day nurse was unaware that this was happening. The nurses got him up and he immediately went into a silent seizure with a little sputtering (this was normal for his seizures).

Luther went back to the Hospital and received several pints of blood. When the doctors decided he was well enough to go to "Rehab" again – Luther said "Oh No! I'm going home!" I was trained to care for the open wound and to care for the colostomy bag. Luther's hand had been shaking long before the seizures – so he could not care for the colostomy bag. He finally came home on October 30, 2015. Thankfully, a nurse was scheduled by the insurance to check on him at least once a week. Things went well and the wound healed very nicely.

The first Wednesday of December 2015, Luther's Chemotherapy Treatments began. After receiving a treatment – a pump was placed on the port – to continue giving him Chemotherapy thru Friday when we would go back and have pump removed. This was to continue every two weeks at the Andrews and Patel office until the end of May 2016. About half way through his scheduled treatments we were having financial difficulty paying our share of the treatments.

We met with a lady in the Finance department of Andrews & Patel whom had participated in some of your fundraising activities. She told us about "Vickie's Foundation" that you had started and encouraged us to submit an application. We are very thankful for the help that your agency provided to us during our time of need by assisting with paying some of our bills and allowing us to keep our heads above water for the three (3) months that we needed your agencies help. We always tried to pay our bills on our own, and since receiving the help we needed we decided to "pay forward" our loan to help others by giving a donation to "Vickie's Foundation" when we are able to do so.

After his Chemotherapy was over – they tried to reverse the Colostomy. Things still were not correct in his body and he came out of surgery with an Ileostomy. When the Ileostomy was reversed, I again had an open wound to care for – helped by a visiting nurse.

In April 2017 – we moved to an independent living facility. We were not able to care for the big yard and flowerbeds in Wellsville.

By November 2018 – Luther had been seizure free long enough to get his driving license back. He was also declared to be cancer free.

Unfortunately, in January 2021, his seizures returned and was hospitalized again in April and in May. We almost lost him in May. He had gone down to the patio of our building to sit with other residents. They thought he had fallen asleep. When I went down to check on him, he was breathing but didn't have a pulse. Again transported to the hospital where a Neurologist discovered that one of the medications he was taking was causing his sodium to be too low. Low sodium and being outdoors in sun or partial sun triggered the seizures.

Our daughter had previously wanted to move us to Florida with them. I finally said okay, I can't deal with all of his medical problems alone anymore. In September 2021 – our daughter and her husband came to PA in their Motorhome and brought us to Florida. A moving company brought our furniture.

Luther had been on a lot of seizure medications and after going through extensive testing in November 2022, his Neurologist discontinued all previous seizure medications and placed him on a low dose seizure medication, just as a precaution. Before removing all the seizure medications – Luther felt like he was in a fog. He is now walking, talking and remembering much better being off all the medications.

November 2022, Luther had a C.T. Colonography/Virtual Colonoscopy and the report said that his cancer was possibly back. When the Oncologist looked at the pictures, he could not see any evidence of cancer but requested a regular colonoscopy. The results showed that Luther is still cancer free.

I have described what happened as best as I can remember it. We are very thankful that Luther is doing better now.

May God Bless You with Your Work,

Luther and Shirley Spertzel

(I have enclosed a picture that was taken just before we celebrated our 60<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary here in Florida.)