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## 71 years and counting: Couple celebrated through Dare to Dream program

By MARY ALFORD THE NEWS-ENTERPRISE

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Earl "Bill" Goodman and Nell Goodman on Monday were treated to a dinner catered by Tony York's on Main outside the home of Jeff and Mary Key in Glendale. The couple, who have been married for 71 years, was celebrated through Willow Creek Senior Living's Dare to Dream program.

MARY ALFORD/The News-Enterprise

Earl "Bill" Goodman and Nell Goodman met more than 70 years ago at Western Kentucky University.

Their courtship began with a blind date at Beech Bend Park and that eventually led to them getting married on May 30, 1950.

"When we met, I had finished four years at Western, was going to graduate that summer, had dodged all the women, she came to summer school and hooked me," Bill said.

Seventy-one years later, the couple is going strong.

"It doesn't seem like it's been that long," Nell said. "It just seems like yesterday. When I say 71 years, I can't even believe it myself."

The two were celebrated Monday evening as part of Willow Creek Senior Living's Dare to Dream program.

Robin Reeder, community relations coordinator in Elizabethtown, said each month they pick a resident or couple that live with them and give them a special night. For instance, last month, they selected a woman in her 90s. She wanted a water baptism in a church. So, they made that happen for her.

The Goodmans on Monday were treated to a dinner catered by Tony York's on Main in Glendale. The dinner was held at the Nolin River Wildlife in Glendale outside the home of Jeff and Mary Key. Tony York cooked the food on site. They each had coconut shrimp and salad. For entrees, Bill was served country ham and Nell was served chicken cordon bleu. For dessert, the couple enjoyed a cake made by Markita Conner.

Following dinner, Bill and Nell were given the opportunity to visit with some of the animals, including deer, at the wildlife refuge center.

"I don't think there was a couple more deserving," said Dee Johnson, Willow Creek Senior Living Elizabethtown executive director.

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