Saving the Best for Last

Bless This Marriage: Wish Fulfilled Despite Illness

Samatra C. Doyle, MN, ARNP

Attending a patient’s wedding was a career first, to say the least. The groom, an older gentleman, and his bride of a similar age had known each other for 35 years—and been in love for the last 10 of those. The couple came to Seattle initially for the surgical management of neurofibromatosis, which unfortunately had transformed into metastatic malignant peripheral nerve sheath tumor. He was admitted to one of the university’s hematology/oncology floors. Unfortunately, no curative interventions were available to this gentleman, and plans were being made to discharge him home. His amazing fiancée was his advocate, friend, companion, and source of humor and levity during this tragic and horrible situation. She made him laugh, held his hand, kissed him, and took care of his personal needs, all while being remarkably put together and kind hearted. It was a sight to see—that selfless commitment and love.

The couple had planned to get married at some point in the future but, when it became apparent that the future was suddenly quite finite, it was their wish to be legally married as soon as possible. Personally, it was an honor to be present at the wedding. Another medical service attending a patient’s wedding was never melt, the summits of intense silence, and meadows filled with wild flowers, the snows that

We call upon the mountains, the high valleys and

We call upon the earth, our planet home, with

We call upon the moon and the stars and the

The following is the ceremonial poem by Fritz Hull spoken by the chaplain and attendees. The poem is reprinted here with permission.

We call upon all that we hold most sacred to

We call upon the moon and the stars and the

We call upon all those who have lived on this

We call upon the forests, the great trees reaching
to the sky with earth in their roots and heaven in their branches, the fir and the pine, the cedar and the maple, and we ask them to blessthismarriage.

We call upon the moon and the stars and the

We call upon the family and friends and all those

We call upon all those who have lived on this

We call upon all those who have lived on this

We call upon all those who have lived on this
to bless this marriage.

We call upon all those who have lived on this
to bless this marriage.

We call upon all those who have lived on this
to bless this marriage.

We call upon all those who have lived on this
to bless this marriage.

We call upon all those who have lived on this
to bless this marriage.

We call upon all those who have lived on this
to bless this marriage.

We call upon all those who have lived on this
to bless this marriage.

We call upon all those who have lived on this
to bless this marriage.

We call upon all those who have lived on this
to bless this marriage.

We call upon all those who have lived on this
to bless this marriage.

We call upon all those who have lived on this
to bless this marriage.

We call upon all those who have lived on this
to bless this marriage.

We call upon all those who have lived on this
to bless this marriage.

We call upon all those who have lived on this
to bless this marriage.

We call upon all those who have lived on this
to bless this marriage.

We call upon all those who have lived on this
to bless this marriage.

We call upon all those who have lived on this
to bless this marriage.