



"You gave your promise to me and I gave mine to you. . . I need someone beside me in everything I do. . ."

I Met My True Love in Wildwood



Kevin & Kelly on the Boardwalk, May 21, 1987

I was born in Philadelphia. Every Spring I would revel in anticipation and excitement as my father would take us to Brigantine to look for a summer home. As a kid, hanging at Brigantine Castle was the place to be and was my mini boardwalk introduction. On occasion my father would take us to Ocean City, he would always forget, and go on a Sunday when nothing was open but it was neat walking the boardwalk. One year when I was about 11 my father took us all the way down to Wildwood and I remember to this day, my eyes dazzled with the spectacle that lie before me. I was amazed and immediately felt a connection.

Shortly after that summer vacation my father felt the same fever and returned to Wildwood that fall to purchase a small duplex. I was living the dream in one of the most energetic yet peaceful cities I have ever been in. I started at Wildwood High School, joined the band and worked at McDonald's. My family didn't fare as well and returned to Philadelphia but I knew that this was the place for me. Although young, I felt a spiritual connection with this town like nothing I have ever experienced. I still love Philly, the people there and our Eagles!

I was out of my senior year of high school and working at McDonald's during the day and as a DJ for Hunt's Pier. Well the season was starting in 1987 and Hunt's was going through a lot of changes at the time. I was offered a DJ job on Morey's pier by a friend and had the pleasure of working with two of the best from the 80's and today, Mark and Kim. Very different personalities but both taught me a lot about how to work a crowd for sure.

Well I was in my usual high spirited, dating casually mode wooing the girls, always looking for one that I could connect with. Actually I was pretty shy and they usually approached me before I would talk to them. Being a DJ has its benefits as you get to hide behind a microphone and woo the gals without getting too close. I was never really good at wooing, so I think the days ahead would be



Mr. & Mrs. Gormely on their wedding day May 21, 1994

a blessing that I have yet to fully understand or completely appreciate. Each day I revel in all that was and is and look forward to today and what the future holds for continued growth and love.

I walked into work at Morey's Pier on one unassuming day and walked past a ride called the Wacky Shack. It was business as usual until this little redhead caught the corner of my eye. I think I tripped over my feet or the boards. I'm not sure, but I stopped dead in my tracks and took another look up on the ride. I saw the most beautiful girl I have ever seen dancing and having fun with a bunch of the other workers. I had to find out who this girl was.

This beautiful redhead hung out with the cool crowd and although I thought I had a pretty cool job I pretty much kept to myself as my shyness always took over. I eventually became friends with friends of hers. I was introduced to her and it seemed like she didn't even see that I was there. I looked into her blue eyes and I fell in love instantly. I don't think she could have cared less whether I was there or not but there was no way I was going to let an opportunity go by without saying hello to her. So I met her and her boyfriend who was from the popular crowd and I attempted to do my best to hang out but just became frustrated with the entire process.

I eventually decided that I would just find an opportunity to check in with her and see how she was and offer my friendship. I don't think my girlfriend or her boyfriend cared for that much but this girl had a magic about her. I was completely enthralled with this girl I haven't spent five minutes with.



Kevin Gormely in Baghdad

We had times that we would talk and when I realized that she wasn't very serious about her boyfriend I made the decision to pursue her. I left flowers, teddy bears... all that stuff. Wherever she was I reminded her who cared and fancied her and I would not let up my feelings to date this girl. Well she sure tested me as it took a while to convince her to go out on a date with me and although I don't think she was very serious in the beginning I was hooked. We became closer, talked more and hung out with each other more. I knew the days I laid eyes on this girl that she was the one for me. I don't know how but I knew it.

By the end of the summer we had been exclusive to each other and I gave her a small engagement ring that has since evolved into what my wife quietly refers to as the "upgrade". We spent the next many years living in the Crest and working towards school and career choices. Kelly went to nursing school and I worked for Borden's until they went out of business in 1993. Ever since that fateful day in December 1993 I have spent my career in the US Army loving every day of it. Today, I write this story of finding love in Wildwood from the work area of my unit, where I command a medical unit here in Iraq, Baghdad to be exact.

We have traveled often too many places with two goals that have helped us rekindle our love.

One: We try to visit Wildwood every year, no matter where we are stationed. We have three kids 19, 11, 7. They love Mack's, Sam's, and play a mean slot machine at Bobby Dee's. Not only do we go back to celebrate our



Kelly Gormely



The Gormely's

love and meeting but we now experience a higher actualized love watching our children enjoy the same things that we did years ago. I will be 41 this year and it is still like we are kids. (Last year we did not make it due to this current deployment).

Two: I can retire in as little as 5 years from the military. My wife has been a successful nurse and continues her education. The Army has blessed me with School and three degrees to my current position as a Commander and Nurse Practitioner. We are looking for a little place back on the bay with a dock to sit and crab and take in the beauty of the wetlands. To experience the seasons, nature and love that was nurtured there for so long.

Not only did I meet my true love in Wildwood, I experience the greatness of love with this girl with the red hair and blue eyes together watching our children grow and appreciate the area. I watched her go to school in Cape May and through her found my love and calling as a military nurse and leader. Love abounds in ways that are so simply beautiful and far reaching than I would have ever imagined. I sit here today in a country where freedom is not always free. We are working hard and I have a great appreciation for our freedom to live and love. Wildwood held the key to my heart and the girl who would eventually hold it forever. For in the Heaven above Wildwood I will still be holding her hand.

Major Kevin Gormley, US Army, Baghdad, Iraq is the loving husband of Kellyanne Margaret Gormley. It is his dream to come 'home' to Wildwood this summer and to renew his wedding vows to Kelly somewhere on the island. The Gormley's hope to one day retire here.