

**Anne and Dana
July 4, 2015
Lancaster, NH
3:00 pm**

Welcome:

Welcome everyone and thank you for making the trip to join us on this very special occasion. We are gathered here today to honor and celebrate the coming together of Anne, Dana and their children, in the friendship, loyalty, and love of marriage. Anne and Dana would like to express their appreciation to each of you for the love, support, and guidance that you have given them on the long journey that brought them here today.

Intentions:

Anne, will you have Dana as your husband, in times of good fortune as well as adversity, forsaking all others to be a kind and faithful wife? Do you promise to base your life with Dana on love, caring, and understanding? Do you pledge to speak and to listen, to give and receive, and to be considerate of his wishes and desires?

Anne: I will

Dana, will you have Anne as your wife, in times of good fortune as well as adversity, forsaking all others to be a kind and faithful husband? Do you promise to base your life with Anne on love, caring, and understanding? Do you pledge to speak and to listen, to give and receive, and to be considerate of her wishes and desires?

Dana: I will

Vows:

Anne, please repeat after me:

We have come together to make a marriage
of our true friendship and love.
We shall share with each other in gladness,
strengthen each other in labor,
minister to each other in sorrow,

and be one with each other
in the memories of life.
We shall make a home
of the place where we dwell
and there we shall gather wisdom
from the seasons of life.

I, Anne, take you Dana,
to be my husband.
I accept you as you are,
and ask that you be no one but yourself.
I promise to love you
from this day forward
and for all the days of our lives.

Dana, please repeat after me:

We have come together to make a marriage
of our true friendship and love.
We shall share with each other in gladness,
strengthen each other in labor,
minister to each other in sorrow,
and be one with each other
in the memories of life.
We shall make a home
of the place where we dwell
and there we shall gather wisdom
from the seasons of life.

I, Dana, take you Anne,
to be my wife.
I accept you as you are,
and ask that you be no one but yourself.
I promise to love you
from this day forward
and for all the days of our lives.

Exchange of Rings:

The rings that you are about to exchange mark the beginning of a long journey together. They are also a symbol of infinity, time without end. Let your rings be a reminder of your union, and of the love that you share. As a ring is unbroken, so will your love for each other be without end.

Anne, as you place the ring on Dana's finger, please repeat after me:

The words I say to you now
are words I say in friendship, respect, and love.
I see in you a strong, growing partner,
the person with whom I wish to share my life.
I offer you all the days before me,
no matter what may come our way.
I freely take you as my husband.
Take this ring as a symbol of my commitment.

Dana, as you place the ring on Anne's finger, please repeat after me:

The words I say to you now
are words I say in friendship, respect, and love.
I see in you a strong, growing partner,
the person with whom I wish to share my life.
I offer you all the days before me,
no matter what may come our way.
I freely take you as my wife.
Take this ring as a symbol of my commitment.

Sand Ceremony:

Anne and Dana, today you are making a life-long commitment to share the rest of your lives with each other and honor your children as well.

As you each hold your sand, the sand represents your lives to this moment; individual and unique. As you now combine your sand together, your lives also join together as one family.

Your family relationship is symbolized through the pouring of the sand; representing, Anne, Dana, and the children, Luke, Justin and Daniel, and all that you were, all that you are, and all that you will ever be.

The children will share in this marriage. The gathering of this new family will have a deep influence upon them. They realize that in order for the home to be a happy one, it is essential that there be love and understanding between the children and the adults being married.

You may now blend the sand together symbolizing the uniting of the children and bride and groom into one.

Blessing of the Apaches:

Now you will feel no rain, for each of you will be shelter for the other. Now you will feel no cold, for each of you will be warmth to the other. Now there will be no loneliness, for each of you will be companion to the other. Now you are two persons, but there is only one life before you. May beauty surround you both in the journey ahead and through all the years. May happiness be your companion and your days together be good and long upon the earth.

Pronouncement:

Today I am privileged to share with you the moment you begin your new life together. In the years ahead, may you always apply tenderness and strength to the trials that may befall you. May your love be a shield from the unpredictability of life. May you remember to rejoice in good times and good fortune and may you always appreciate the life that you found with each other.

Closing:

And now, it gives me great pleasure to say: By the power vested in me by the state of New Hampshire, I now pronounce you husband and wife. You may kiss the bride!