

The state of gay marriage: Dave Greenbaum and Mike Silverman, Lawrence

May 6, 2009 12:00:00 am

Together for: 13 years.

Their commitment: In 1999, about three years after Dave Greenbaum and Mike Silverman began dating, the Lawrence couple celebrated their commitment at a synagogue in Omaha, Neb., where Silverman's from. Greenbaum said he'd always dreamt of a traditional Jewish ceremony. He didn't want to give up that dream after he realized he was gay.

advertisement

Making it legal: Part of the couple's signed religious marriage contract required them to seek out a legal marriage. So last summer, when California began granting same-sex marriages, Silverman and Greenbaum caught a flight to San Francisco. On June 17 they became one of the first gay couples to marry at San Francisco City Hall.

Though the men had been together for more than a decade, getting legally married in California made both cry. Greenbaum compared the moment to the fall of the Berlin Wall. The freedom was palpable.

"I don't think I've ever seen so much love in one building," Silverman said.

Gay couples from all over the country packed into City Hall that day. Silverman and Greenbaum had to wait in long lines and fill out pages of paperwork before being pronounced "spouses for life." It was like a day at the DMV, but much more special.

"It was a mix of magic and beaurocracy," Greenbaum said.

Representin': On their big day in California, Greenbaum and Silverman wore University of Kansas T-shirts and brandished a Kansas flag. The state's motto, Ad Astra per Aspera, or "to the stars with difficulty," seemed fitting. Reporters and photographers flanked the couple.

"We wanted to prove to the rest of the world that respect of other people is not just for the coasts," Greenbaum said. "It's also for Kansas, Missouri and the Midwest."

The couple saw the Iowa court decision to recognize gay marriage as a huge step for the heartland.

"It's a representation of true Midwestern values," Greenbaum said. "We truly do care for our neighbor. Eventually (same-sex marriage) will come to Kansas and Missouri."

How they met: Greenbaum and Silverman were students at KU when they discovered their mutual love of Mac computers. The self-described computer geeks were introduced by friends.

"We hit it off right away," Silverman said. "Neither one of us was 'out' at the time, so the friendship grew before we both realized we were gay. Eventually, Dave came out to me, and I came out to him a bit later, and we eventually realized we were in love."

Today, the couple lives together in Lawrence with their dog, Tova. Silverman works for Motorola. Greenbaum runs a computer-repair company, Doctor Dave Computer Repair.

Election Day: The passage of California's constitutional marriage ban placed the status of marriages there in the hands of the state Supreme Court. Silverman and Greenbaum said that if their marriage there is invalidated, they have a backup plan.

"We'd just have to drive up to Iowa," Greenbaum said.

[0 Comments - leave comment](#)



While waiting in line at San Francisco City Hall to get married, the couple wore University of Kansas T-shirts and held a Kansas state flag.

more not work...

- [Local woman one of 100 nationwide picked as Ford Fiesta "agents"](#)
- [The state of gay marriage: David Greene and Dan Blankenship, North Kansas City](#)
- [The state of gay marriage: How gay marriage in Iowa affects Kansas City couples](#)
- [The state of gay marriage: Lisa Kinzalow and Tracy Lozaw, Leawood](#)
- [The state of gay marriage: The legal aspects](#)

you might also like...

- [The state of gay marriage: Tricia and Marjorie Hellmer, Kansas City](#)
- [The state of gay marriage: Lisa Kinzalow and Tracy Lozaw, Leawood](#)
- [The state of gay marriage: David Greene and Dan Blankenship, North Kansas City](#)
- [The state of gay marriage: The legal aspects](#)
- [People over 50 to party with: White Owl, 61](#)

inkkc.com search

advertisements



"Acai Berry Side Effects" (Read This)
Warning! Want To Try Acai Berry? Have You Considered Side Effects?
www.acaihealthtests.com

"Topeka Mom Makes \$5k/Month"
Stay At Home Mom Makes \$5397/Month with just \$1.97. Read Her Secret...
SarahsMoneyBlog.net

2 Rules To Stomach Fat
Obey 2 Simple Rules And Lose 9 Lbs of Stomach Fat A Week Guaranteed.
www.juliasweightlossblog.com

[Get listed here](#)



- [Social Networking](#)
 - [Blogs](#)
 - [Forum](#)
 - [Photos](#)
 - [Classifieds](#)
 - [Adoptions](#)
 - [Events](#)
 - [Resources](#)
 - [Much more](#)
- [CLICK HERE](#)



[about us](#) | [terms and services](#) | [privacy policy](#) | [faq](#) | [contact us](#)
Copyright © 2009 All rights reserved