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 dreamed of a traditional Jewish ceremony. He didn’t want to give up that dream after he realized he was gay.

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.

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.

Representing: On their big day in California, 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 is invalidated, they have a backup plan.

“We’d just have to drive up to Iowa,” Greenbaum said.

0 Comments - leave comment