



MEDINA COUNTY COMMON PLEAS COURT

Probate and Juvenile Divisions

225 East Washington Street, Fourth Floor, Medina, Ohio 44256

KEVIN W. DUNN
Judge

MEDIA RELEASE

February 15, 2025

Love is in the Courthouse as Judge Dunn Officiates Valentine's Day Civil Ceremonies



From left to right: Judge Kevin W. Dunn, Mark Beaton, and Susan Deluca

MEDINA – Judge Kevin W. Dunn celebrated with seven couples as they began their newlywed life on Valentine's Day, Friday, February 14.

One of those happy couples was Susan Deluca and Mark Beaton of Hinckley. Deluca said she originally wanted a church wedding, but the wait to reserve a date in an older church was too long. Their plan was always to be married in February, so when they arrived at the Courthouse to obtain their marriage license and learned that Judge Dunn was performing Valentine's Day civil ceremonies in the Probate Courtroom, they seized the opportunity.

"We thought this was a better option," Deluca said. "It's simple and more private."

The couple brought their own photographer to capture the special moment and Deluca's son, Michael, was in attendance as a witness. Beaton has two children of his own, Daniel and Molly, who could not attend the ceremony, but he said they will celebrate together soon as the couple plans to host a big party in the spring or summer with family and friends.

As they stood under a balloon arch created by Probate Court staff, Judge Dunn had the couple recite their vows and exchange rings. All of the couples received a personalized copy of their marriage vows signed by Judge Dunn and a gift bag. Inside the gift bag were cupcakes from a local bakery, a miniature bottle of sparkling cider with two glasses, and a valentine photo holder.

"My staff volunteers to do these things with the hope that it makes the couples feel special on their big day," Judge Dunn said. "We have multiple ceremonies occurring throughout the day, but we want to make sure that each couple feels just as happy as the last ones who walked out of those doors before them."

Beaton said he anticipated that the judge would sit behind the bench, read some kind of proclamation

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of marriage, and hit a gavel. “This was more than I expected,” Beaton said. “The decorations were wonderful, and Judge Dunn has such a great disposition. He is sincere and very easy to talk to.”

Beaton and Deluca gave praise to the court staff that they interacted with during their experience, starting with Deputy Clerk Jill Himes who issued their marriage license. “All of the staff here has been great throughout this entire process. It has been a wonderful experience.”

“There are few duties as a judge that leave me smiling ear to ear when I exit my courtroom,” said Judge Dunn. “One is adoptions. The other is joining two people in marriage and sending them off to begin their life together.”

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