

Home Health Aide for her. While the aide helped out mainly when David and Janice were at school, they saw enough of her to experience home health care firsthand. This personal exposure at a young age helped both of them to better understand how their family business helped families.

In his energetic yet serene way, Mark kept on top of all his responsibilities. His goals remained consistent: Keep his family happy, his clients happy, and his employees happy; grow the business in a responsible way. But what about his “no dating employees” rule? As their relationship grew serious, Mark and Ann tried to keep it quiet. That lasted about three months. “We did it secretly, which drove me crazy because I don’t like to keep secrets,” says Mark.

Meanwhile, the rehabilitation nursing business was blossoming. Still, by 1990, it came time to make a decision about Ann’s future at the company. Being a sensitive, thoughtful man as well as a devotee of consensus, Mark decided to see what others thought. He called some of the office directors and asked their opinion on Ann staying at BAYADA Nurses.

Ann picks up the story: “Mark said, ‘I want to talk to you about something: I’m dating Ann Claffey. And if you have an issue with that, tell me now, because if most people have an issue with that, Ann is prepared to leave.’” They weren’t kidding. Mark had promised to help Ann find another job if it came to that.

One of those directors at the time, Carole McMahon, recalls it well. Early on, she says, “I could see that there was some attraction there. When they were dating, Mark asked us how we felt about it. I supported them, because I knew

both of them and I could tell that they were good for each other. Ann’s a wonderful person and she shares his vision. They’re a perfect couple.”

Not only did the overwhelming majority of directors give Mark and Ann their resounding approval, but a few even said their courtship was long overdue.

A festive wedding

The happy couple knew they wanted to marry. In January 1991, Mark proposed and Ann accepted. As their plans progressed, they brought the kids together for family meetings. There, they talked about their feelings and discussed how their households would come together.



LEFT: The blissful couple at their wedding on July 28, 1991. Both in their early 40s, Mark and Ann felt they had finally found their soulmates.