

# LOVE STORY'S FINAL CHAPTER



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Ruben and Betty Giese, shown on their wedding day in 1946, met at a school dance in Gresham and settled on a farm north of town.



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Ruben and Betty Giese celebrated their 70th anniversary in May and then passed away hours apart in hospital beds side by side Thursday.

## Married 70 years, couple dies hours apart

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Over the course of their marriage, Ruben and Betty Giese had stayed by each other's side through good times and bad for 70 years.

So neither was going to leave the other alone at this moment.

The Gresham husband and wife passed away side by side, just hours apart Thursday, in what family members say was a final act

of love and devotion.

"They didn't want to be apart," their daughter, Linda Clemins, said. "They wanted to go together."

Both dealing with health issues, Ruben and Betty Giese were residents for the past two years at the Atrium Evergreen nursing home of Shawano.

Although they lived in separate rooms at the facility, they were virtually inseparable day after day. And when Betty's health deteriorated and then Ruben began to de-

cline, too, nurses put the couple in beds side by side.

Surrounded by family, Betty died shortly after 12 a.m., and Ruben joined her just eight hours later. She was 88; he was 90.

Debbie Buss, activity director at the Atrium Evergreen center, said she has heard stories about married couples passing away at nearly the same time. But she has never witnessed something so ex-

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