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**GRAND TRAVERSE
RESORT AND SPA**

Grand Traverse Resort Hosts Special Wedding Celebration for Benzie County Couple

ACME, Mich., January 13, 2022 – On Sunday, January 9, Ron and Jennifer Oberlin stood before family and friends to renew their vows after nearly 42 years of marriage. Grand Traverse Resort and Spa hosts dozens of weddings each year, but the Oberlin’s celebration will always be a special one.

The Resort was honored to host Ron and Jennifer’s Wish Upon a Wedding. The Benzie County couple met when they were 17 in 1979. The couple immediately fell in love and got married seven months later. Over the next 40 years, they raised two children and celebrated the birth of three grandchildren. This past year, however, Ron began experiencing health issues and was later diagnosed with stage 4 lung cancer. Ron went through intense treatments, but his cancer spread into his lymph nodes and bones. The couple then decided it was important to savor any time they had left together.

Wish Upon a Wedding, a national nonprofit, grants weddings and vow renewals to couples facing serious illness or life-altering health circumstances. The organization learned about the Oberlin’s love story and without hesitation began planning their perfect vow renewal ceremony and reception. “When I saw the Oberlin’s application, I knew we had to grant their wish,” says Lacey Wicksall, Wish Upon a Wedding program coordinator. “I love seeing the generosity of our wish granters, the vendors. They are people who come together who have never met Jennifer and Ron and just out of the goodness of their heart they want to give back their time, talents, and resources.”

Wish Upon a Wedding teamed up with A Day in May Events, who began reaching out to other vendors in Traverse City. “We started planning in mid-December,” says Alicia Fritz, owner of A Day in May Events. “Weddings are about love, unconditional love, and for us to be part of one this special was an honor for us.” A Day in May Events put together a magical day for Ron and Jennifer. The 17th floor of the Resort’s Tower was filled with lavender representing cancer and white for lung cancer. The couple was surrounded by family and friends as Jennifer walked down the aisle in a beautiful wedding gown. They then cut their cake and enjoyed a reception with dinner and dancing. “I will have memories when Ron’s gone because he only has a month to two months to live,” Jennifer says. “We never had a wedding when we first got married. I always wanted a big ceremony, and this was our chance.”

The Oberlin’s Wish Upon a Wedding would not have been possible without donations from Grand Traverse Resort and Spa, Spa Grand Traverse, A Day in May Events, Event Theory, Lilies of the Alley, The Weber Photographers, Montage Media Films, 2Bays DJs, Sylvia Norris, Natalie’s Bridal and Tuxedo, Generation Tux, Green Envelope, Weddings Your Way, Kwik Print, and Nuage Designs.

Media images are available [here](#).

About Grand Traverse Resort and Spa

Nestled among the freshwater beaches and hardwood forests of Traverse City, MI, Grand Traverse Resort and Spa is miles away from ordinary. Featuring nearly 600 guest rooms and 86,500 square feet of meeting space, the 900-acre property is one of Michigan's premier resort destinations. The Resort is also home to three championship golf courses, the renowned Spa Grand Traverse, and *Wine Spectator* Award of Excellence winner Aerie Restaurant & Lounge. Visit grandtraverseresort.com or call 800-236-1577 to learn more.