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# Regina Lawrence & Chad Savage

WASHINGTON, D.C., JULY 17, 2004

INTRODUCED BY MUTUAL FRIENDS, Chad Savage and Regina Lawrence's common interests and love for sports, particularly baseball, instantly connected them. They spent the entire night they met talking and made plans to go on a date a few days later. Sparks flew, and the two started dating seriously.

Chad, a serious Chicago Cubs fan, was surprised when he learned that Regina, a long-time Astros fan, had never been to Wrigley Field to see a baseball game. After all, Wrigley Field is the best baseball stadium in the country. As a result, the couple made a tradition of annually visiting Chicago to see the Cubs play at Wrigley.

On Sept. 11, 2003, Chad and Regina took their annual Chicago trip for Chad's birthday. It was tradition that the first night there, they have dinner at Harry Carey's, an Italian restaurant in Chicago. It was here that Chad proposed to Regina. "She couldn't say 'no' to me on my birthday," Chad says. After dating for four years, while Regina was attending Georgetown and Chad was working, the couple had shared stressful times and had always been there for one another. They were excited to spend the rest of their lives together.

The couple was united on July 17, 2004, at St. Peter's Catholic Church. Father Robert Barras performed the ceremony facing the altar so the couple could look at their 120 guests when they exchanged their vows. During the recessional, a cantor and organist played classical hymns as Regina smiled in her timeless ivory, strapless Vera Wang gown with seven layers of English netting, gathered slightly at the waist and a chapel-length, custom-made veil to match. Her four bridesmaids each coordinated and picked their own dresses. Two chose strapless dresses and the other two wore a halter-style dress. Her "bride's man" and Chad's five groomsmen wore traditional black tuxedos. Chad looked handsome in a traditional black tuxedo with a Thomas Pink tuxedo shirt.

Regina advises couples to keep their wedding small and intimate. "I can't tell you how much it meant to me to look out at the audience during the ceremony and know every single face that looked back at me," she says.

For her wedding day, Regina hired a day-of-coordinator to handle the details. Sara Bauleke of Belle Notte took care of all the logistics. Regina says she was calm the entire day because she had nothing to worry about.



## WEDDING SOURCES

- Ceremony Site:** St. Peter's Catholic Church, Washington, D.C.
- Reception Site:** The Congressional Club, Washington, D.C.
- Officiant:** Father Robert Barras
- Bridal Gown and Veil:** Vera Wang/Vera Wang Bridal Boutique, Washington, D.C.
- Bridesmaid Dresses:** After Six/Pearl's Place, Metairie, La.
- Hair and Makeup:** Elizabeth Arden Red Door Spas, Washington, D.C.
- Men's Formalwear:** Men's Wearhouse, Arlington, Va.
- Rings:** Aspen Jewelry Design, Herndon, Va.
- Wedding Planner:** Sara Bauleke/Bella Notte, Arlington
- Invitations:** Not From a Box, St. Petersburg, Fla.
- Florist:** Yellow Door Floral Design, McLean, Va.
- Transportation:** Atlantic Transportation, Washington, D.C.
- Caterer:** Cuisine Catering, Baltimore, Md.
- Wedding and Groom's Cake:** Especially for You, Alexandria, Va.
- Linens:** Cuisine Catering
- Music:** Dave Cosby/D.C. Project, Washington D.C.
- Photographer:** Matt Mendelsohn Photography, Alexandria
- Honeymoon Destination:** InterContinental Chicago

Regina had recently accepted a job in California, and the couple would be moving there after the wedding. The reception would serve double-duty as a celebration of marriage and a farewell from the couple—a goodbye to family, friends and Washington, D.C. Before the couple arrived at the reception, photographer Matt Mendelsohn took pictures of them at Ben's Chili Bowl, a D.C. landmark and comedian Bill Cosby's favorite place for child dogs. They also had a friend bring their three adopted dogs—Bella, Gus and Jake—to the Capitol for pictures.

During cocktail hour and dinner at The Congressional Club, a jazz trio entertained guests, and later a professional DJ played tunes that had guests on the dance floor in no time. As a special surprise for Chad, Regina had Especially for You design a replica of Wrigley Field for the groom's cake. The intricate detail included fans in the seats, a miniature Harry Carey sign and the Astros, Regina's favorite team, in first place on the scoreboard flags.

For their honeymoon, Chad and Regina returned to Chicago and stayed at the InterContinental. In their very special city, they had dinner at Charlie Trotter's, Regina's favorite restaurant in the country, and, of course, attended a few baseball games at Wrigley Field.

— Nicole Wilder



PHOTOS: MATT MENDELSON PHOTOGRAPHY