### Sample Letter #1

I don't think I express my appreciation to you often enough for having given me so many happy years, so I've decided to write this letter--an anniversary card just doesn't say enough. This way I can sit down and gather my thoughts together and present them to you with a small token of my love. I know you've always enjoyed Gilbert & Sullivan musical comedies, so I've purchased tickets for us to see "The Pirates of Penzance" on Saturday evening. I believe that's one we saw when we started dating so many years ago. We were always going to musicals and plays back then. I remember that "A Midsummer Night's Dream" was your favorite Shakespearean comedy. After we were married, though, our children started arriving quickly and our theater-going days diminished rapidly.

I don't think that either one of us minded too much, though, because our kids always seemed to provide enough entertainment of their own. How I admired your parenting skills through the years! I still don't know how you did everything so well, even from the beginning--our little ones certainly didn't come with a manual. I will always be grateful for the help you gave me, too, when I started to get a little heavy-handed with them. I benefited from your guidance and motherly skills almost as much as the children did. Now that they have all left the nest, we can be glad that none of them have any complaints about their childhood years--at least not yet! For the moment, anyway, we can wipe our brows in relief and turn our attention back to each other and our well-earned, newly regained freedom.

I want to assure you that the passing years have not diminished my love for you in the least. Instead, my love has only deepened with time because it always gives me more opportunities to appreciate how you successfully manage every new challenge that confronts us. Please don't ever concern yourself with a gray hair here or a wrinkle there, my Dear. Although you are as beautiful to me as ever, I also admire your inner beauty, which merely intensifies with the passing years.

I finally understand the meaning of all those songs that talk about endless love. I don't think they are just hyperbole or poetic expressions, after all. I believe now that a love that has endured this earthly test can never end. I swore to love you for time and all eternity and I will happily do that, my Love. I am so grateful that you continue to love me, too--despite my failures and shortcomings. Thank you for always being there and helping me to be all that I can be.

Happy Anniversary!