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What goes around comes around: Victim of Superstorm Sandy 'overwhelmed' as ring he lost in Bahamas 35 years ago turns up days after his house is destroyed

- Robert De Vincenzi lost his Wagner College class of '76 ring on holiday with a friend
- Honeymooners Randy and Linda Wilkinson found it washed up on same beach days 35 years later
- Stroke of luck a welcome boost among despair of losing all his belongings

By STEVE ROBSON

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Stood among the wreckage of his former home in Staten Island, Robert De Vincenzi must have felt down on his luck.

Days before a 12ft wall of water has swept into his property during Superstorm Sandy destroying all of his belongings.

But within a few days his luck was about to change with a single phone call.

Wagner College in New York had been given a ring belonging to Mr De Vincenzi that he lost 35 years earlier while on holiday with a friend in the Bahamas.

A couple honeymooning in the Bahamas had found it encrusted in coral and wrapped in seaweed washed up on the shore.

Randy Wilkinson and his bride Linda took the ring to a jeweler in their home state of Missouri who uncovered Mr De Vincenzi's name inscribed inside.

They turned it over to Wagner College who tried desperately to get in touch - but Mr Vincenzi's phone number was disconnected for several days because of the storm.

When they finally managed to get through Mr De Vincenzi said he was 'overwhelmed' by the discovery.

'It was 35 years ago,' he said. 'I was on vacation with my friend and we were in the water, splashing around, when the ring came off. How strange, the way God works.'



© Wagner College
'Overwhelmed': Robert De Vincenzi had been down his luck after Superstorm Sandy swept a 12ft wall of water into his home destroying all his belongings



© Wagner College
Discovery: Randy Wilkinson and bride Linda found the ring encrusted with sand and seaweed while on honeymoon in the Bahamas



© Wagner College
Incredible find: The Wagner College class of '76 ring that Robert De Vincenzi lost while on holiday in the Bahamas 35 years ago



© Wagner College
Hope: Robert De Vincenzi after being reunited with the Wagner College ring he lost in the Bahamas 35 years

After hearing about the Mr De Vincenzi's circumstances, the newlyweds wrote him a touching letter expressing how pleased they were to have reunited him with the ring.

'We cannot imagine how you have been affected by Superstorm Sandy, and what you have already gone through,' wrote Mr Wilkinson.

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'I remember when we were sitting on the beach, I told Linda that, more than likely, Sandy washed the ring up.

'After talking to you today and hearing a little about Sandy's impact on you, I am convinced that is the case.

'Maybe you lost your ring over 30 years ago so that I could be reminded that God cares about even the smallest things in our lives.'



© Wagner College

Kind-hearted couple: Randy and Linda Wilkinson said they were delighted to reunite Mr De Vincenzi with his ring



© Wagner College

Lucky: Randy Wilkinson on the beach in Bahamas where he found the long-lost ring

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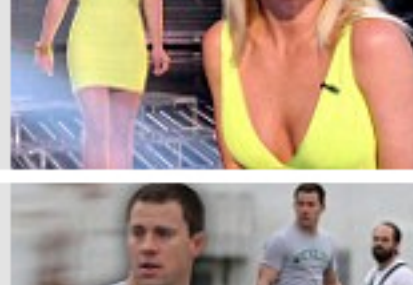
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