

EULOGY FOR DAD

My dad loved a good joke, so I'll start with that:

After church one Sunday, one of the churchgoers walked up to his pastor and asked a question.

"Pastor, is it a sin to play golf on Sundays?" he asked.

"My son," said the pastor, putting his hand on the man's shoulder, "I've seen you play; it's a sin any day."

My father was many things, but most of all he was a great man. His legacy will be one of perseverance, hard work, and integrity. He worked hard all his life to be successful. And he was.

Throughout his life, Dad had many passions. He loved to travel. He loved to connect with friends and family. He loved to drive his T-bird. He loved sports of all kinds. But most of all, he loved his golf! If you couldn't find Dad, he was most likely on the golf course.

Dad worked so hard to be successful. He never gave up on his dream of owning his own insurance agency. He actually opened a couple of different agencies that didn't make it, but he never gave up. In time, he opened what was last known as Wilson Paves & Associates, which was a great success. His business was built on customer service, personal connections and integrity.

Speaking of integrity, I remember a moment when Dad and I were alone in the car together and he said "I need to tell you something. I lied to you the other day and I want you to know I'm sorry for that". You know, I don't have any idea what the lie was. But I've never forgotten that my Dad thought about what he had told me and decided it was better to tell me the truth than to lie, even if it was a hard thing to tell me he had not told me the truth. That one lesson has shaped my life significantly. Because of his actions, I have endeavored all my life to always tell the truth no matter how hard.

I have always loved horses. When I was young, we were pretty poor so there was no chance of me getting my own hors. Instead, Dad would ask his clients if they had horses, and if they did, he'd sometimes arrange for me to come ride their

horses. I remember riding horses for several random people in various places throughout Bakersfield.

Dad was very proud of his kids and all his grandkids. I have had others tell me that Dad often bragged about us. But for most of his life, Dad was never one to express his affection directly to you with words. To his grandkids I say to you – your Grampa loved you dearly.

In his later years though, Dad learned about exclamation points and emojis. He'd end most of his text messages with "I love you" followed by numerous exclamation points and various emojis. I would giggle and ask myself "who is this man?" (But I loved it – exclamation point).

Over the last several years, I watched Dad blossom in his faith. He became bold about talking to others about Jesus. It was wonderful to see him cast his spiritual net. I know he's in heaven and I'm grateful that I can rest in knowing I'll see him again in eternity.

Thank you Dad for being tough on me when I needed it, for being tender when I needed you to, for always wanting to help me, for being there when I needed a shoulder to cry on and encouraging me to push forward when life was hard.

Thank you for teaching me how to work hard, to persevere, to live with integrity, to rise above the challenge, to always do what's right and **to solve the damn problem!**

But the best gift you gave me was that you always believed in me. Thanks Daddy for teaching me how to live. I'll see you in heaven.

From Your Daughter, In Memory of a Cherished Dad

It was a privilege and an honor
to be your daughter.

It was grounding and humbling
to see just how hard you worked each day.

It was inspiring and incredible
to see you do whatever you set your mind to do.

It's heartbreaking
to lose you.

But I'll love you and cherish you forever, Dad.

John 14:1 – 6

1“Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. 2In My Father’s house are many mansions; if *that* were not *so*, I would have told you, because I am going *there* to prepare a place for you. 3And if I go and prepare a place for you, I am coming again and will take you to Myself, so that where I am, *there* you also will be. 4And you know the way where I am going.” 5Thomas *said to Him, “Lord, we do not know where You are going; how do we know the way?” 6Jesus *said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father except through Me.

22. "I'm There Inside Your Heart" by Unknown

This poem is a beautiful read for a funeral as it conveys a sense of eternal presence and comfort, assuring loved ones that the departed is still with them in spirit, sharing both joyful and challenging moments, and expressing a lasting connection that transcends physical separation.

Right now I'm in a different place
And though we seem apart
I'm closer than I ever was,
I'm there inside your heart.

I'm with you when you greet each day
And while the sun shines bright
I'm there to share the sunsets, too
I'm with you every night.

I'm with you when the times are good
To share a laugh or two,
And if a tear should start to fall
I'll still be there for you.

And when that day arrives
That we no longer are apart,
I'll smile and hold you close to me,
Forever in my heart.

13. "The Dash" by Linda Ellis

I read of a man who stood to speak
At the funeral of a friend
He referred to the dates on the tombstone
From the beginning... to the end

He noted that first came the date of birth
And spoke the following date with tears,
But he said what mattered most of all
Was the dash between those years

For that dash represents all the time
That they spent alive on earth.
And now only those who loved them
Know what that little line is worth

For it matters not, how much we own,
The cars... the house... the cash.
What matters is how we live and love
And how we spend our dash.

So, think about this long and hard.
Are there things you'd like to change?
For you never know how much time is left
That can still be rearranged.

If we could just slow down enough
To consider what's true and real
And always try to understand
The way other people feel.

And be less quick to anger
And show appreciation more
And love the people in our lives
Like we've never loved before.

If we treat each other with respect
And more often wear a smile,
Remembering this special dash
Might only last a little while

So, when your eulogy is being read
With your life's actions to rehash...
Would you be proud of the things they say
About how you spent YOUR dash?

Time and Money

A man was taking it easy, lying on the grass and looking up at the clouds. He was identifying shapes when he decided to talk to God. "God", he said, "how long is a million years?"

God answered, "In my frame of reference, it's about a minute."

The man asked, "God, how much is a million dollars?"

God answered, "To Me, it's a penny."

The man then asked, "God, can I have a penny?"

God said, "In a minute."

Mr. Smith was brought to the hospital and taken quickly in for heart surgery. The operation went well and, as the old man regained consciousness, he was reassured by a Sister of the hospital, who was waiting by his bed.

"Mr. Smith, you're going to be just fine," said the nun, gently patting his hand. "We do need to know, however, how you intend to pay for your stay here. Are you covered by insurance?"

"No, I'm not," the man whispered hoarsely.

"Then can you pay in cash?" persisted the nun.

"I'm afraid I cannot, Sister," he said.

"Well, do you have any close relatives?" the nun questioned sternly.

"Just my sister in New Mexico," he volunteered. "But she's a humble spinster nun."

"Oh, I must correct you, Mr. Smith. Nuns are not spinsters; they are married to God."

"Wonderful," said Mr. Smith. "In that case, please send the bill to my brother-in-law."

An insurance sales rep, an administration clerk and their manager are walking to lunch when they find an antique oil lamp. They rub it and a genie comes out in a puff of smoke. The genie says, "I usually only grant three wishes, so I'll give each of you just one." "Me first! Me first!"

says the admin clerk. "I want to be in the Bahamas, driving a speedboat, without a care in the world."

Poof! She's gone.

In astonishment, "Me next! Me next!" says the sales rep. "I want to be in Hawaii, relaxing on the beach with my personal masseuse, an endless supply of piña coladas and the love of my life."

Poof! He's gone.

"Ok, you're up," the genie says to the manager. The manager says, "I want those two back in the office after lunch."

Moral of story: Always let your boss have the first say.

After church one Sunday, one of the churchgoers walked up to his priest and asked a question.

"Father, is it a sin to play golf on Sundays?" he asked.

"My son," said the priest, putting his hand on the man's shoulder, "I've seen your golf game; it's a sin any day."

THE BROKEN CHAIN

We little knew that day,
God was going to call your name.
In life we loved you dearly,
In death, we do the same.

It broke our hearts to lose you.
You did not go alone.
For part of us went with you,
The day God called you home.

You left us beautiful memories,
Your love is still our guide.
And although we cannot see you,
You are always at our side.

Our family chain is broken,
And nothing seems the same,
But as God calls us one by one,
The chain will link again.

- *Ron Tranmer*

PENCIL
JUST DESIGNS