

Hello, I am "Rick," Dad's oldest son. Thank you, Deacon Jim, and thank you all for coming to Dad's Celebration of Life Service.

Dad did lead a life worth celebrating. I'm going to discuss a few highlights of that life from my perspective. Dad, in many respects, lived the American dream. He worked hard, developed a successful business, got married & helped raise a family, and did well financially. He retired at a young age and enjoyed the fruits of his success.

My earliest memories are from when we lived in a modest house on Chicago Ave in Lansing. This was in the early and mid-60's and I remember Dad working hard as he was starting out. He was developing the Lansing Printing company with his father.

Long hours

Dad was always big on the value of work and money. Mom & Dad taught me that I could make a little spending money by collecting bottles and cans from the park across the street. - My first job.

1st job

Dad was very frugal in many ways, reluctant to part with his money... He definitely was slow to respond to requests for my weekly allowance... However, there was never hesitation when it was time to produce money for a haircut!

Now cars were an exception to the rule. Michigan was a "car" state, Lansing was a GM town, and Dad was willing to spend some money there. I remember a Chevy Corvair, and a sweet 1968 Oldsmobile Delmont 88 convertible. I have great memories of car rides, listening the popular music of the era on the AM radio.

I seem

to

Phil joined the family in '64, Dad's business did well. Later we moved to the suburbs, and a few years after that we got our first "Cottage" at Canadian Lakes.

## Cottage

Dad, Grandpa, and conscripted friends and co-workers did almost all the interior work, over a period of weeks and months. Hard work, handyman and construction skills, and an eye towards the value of money – some of Dad's defining traits!

While the cottage wasn't on the lake, it did provide a weekend getaway where we could enjoy boating, fishing, motorcycling, golfing, and snowmobiling. And not having a phone meant that Dad had to unplug from his business and "relax" for a while, though Dad always had some sort of home improvement project going on to keep him busy.

Oh, and for cars I believe we were styling in a 1972 Oldsmobile Toronado, featuring a 455 cubic inch "Rocket V8" engine and a fancy 8-track tape player... With just a few tapes! We had a Simon and Garfunkel tape that we all enjoyed, at least the first 40 or 50 times we heard it!

Through the 70's the business continued to thrive and expand, as did the family with Jim arriving.

As I grew older I was introduced to working in the family printing business. I was "asked" to spend my summers working for LPCO, primarily in the bindery department. Often this involved collating hundreds or thousands multi-part forms. - *By hand.*

*DADS*  
*Factory work - not suited to*

There's one story I tell about working for Dad at LPCO that kind of defined Dad's approach to his business, and his life.

After a massive collating job we had a ton of boxes to ship to the customer. I had made labels showing what they were, the form numbers included, etc. I had applied the labels to the boxes and everything was ready to go.

Dad came by and I thought he'd be glad to see this big job ready to go...

*Completed*

But instead, Dad chewed me out - in front of the staff - because the labels were not neatly filled out, nor were they consistently and professionally aligned on the boxes. Though I felt it was crazy at the time, I did eventually take it as a valuable kind of life lesson.

Successful people, like Dad, set high expectations. You should pay attention to the big things and the "little" things, because a professional appearance matters, and you should always do your best work. He still tell this story to the people I manage to illustrate how I think they should approach their work.

That business approach, and Dad's tireless work, contributed to the ongoing success of his LPCO.

Around the time I went off to college, *late 70's early 80's*

- Mom and Dad upgraded to a nice cottage that was on the lake,
- they built and moved to a new place in Lansing on the river, - *eventually sold cottage*
- and Dad even switched from mostly Buicks to a BMW for a bit.
- I know there was a Cadillac in there somewhere also.

Despite the advent of the Personal Computer and laser printers, Dad found a way to make his business continue to thrive through the 80's and until he retired and sold the business in 1996 when he was still in his 50's. His hard work and financial discipline had paid off.

Mom and Dad got a 2<sup>nd</sup> house in Florida, and so could enjoy year-round golfing and boating, avoid the Michigan winters, and be close to Phil & family. And with two places, Dad always had as many home improvement projects as he wanted. *→ deluxe + vacatours, mowers, etc.*

Dad also continued to enjoy his toys, including the boats and cars. He enjoyed a new SUV every couple of years including a Buick, Volkswagen hybrid, Lexus, and finally Lincoln I'm now driving.

*He also* <sup>the</sup> He & Mom also generously helped out us kids from time to time!

Of course, I don't mean to imply Dad was all about material things. I know Dad, more than anything, enjoyed his kids and grandkids, and I think we'll hear ~~more about that from others.~~ *a little more about that*

**So to tie it all up:**

Despite leaving us at too-young an age Dad had a great life and he really did "Live the Dream."

- ② • He was his own boss,
- ① • He worked hard,
  - raised a family,
  - put his kids through school,
  - retired early and comfortably,
  - and got spend time with his grandkids.

He lived to enjoy the fruits of his labor, where during over 20 years of retired life he had little to worry about other than his golf handicap.

Dad **really** did lead a life worth celebrating. I would like to thank everyone ~~for~~ for joining us today to do just that.

*here*