



BUCKET FILL-OSOPHY 101™

Words of Wisdom to Keep Your Bucket Filled

Volume 6, Issue 11

Week of June 3, 2012

My Bucket Filler

By Carol McCloud

“What can I write that will be inspirational,” I thought as I sat at my computer to compose my final newsletter of the 2011-2012 school year.

I'd been thinking over the past weeks that I would like to share my father's story. What better time than in the month set aside to celebrate the lives of our fathers?

Don Walsh was born in 1921. His father died when he was just a little boy of six. He was raised by a hard-working mother with help from family.

At age 21, he joined the U.S. Army Airborne Division and became a paratrooper during WWII. He was one of thousands of young men who landed on the Normandy Coast on D-Day, Tuesday, June 6, 1944. Like most veterans of that war who did return home, he never talked about it.

The following year he married Marie and over the next forty years they raised eight children. He worked six days a week to support his brood.

He cheered for us at our school events, shepherded us to church every Sunday, and sat down for meals and discussed our lives with us. He taught all of us how to ride a two-wheeled bicycle and later a motorized one. He always had one or two of us in tow as he ran his errands or helped his neighbors. In his own quiet way, he showed unconditional love with his presence and support. Widowed after 40 years and remarried for another 23, my dad has had a very full and happy life. He has always genuinely cared about others. He didn't know it then, but he was filling buckets long before I was born.

My dad is now 91 years young and enjoys an active social calendar and good health. He golfs, plays cards and loves to take family and friends for a ride on his pontoon boat.



Dad gathered with six of his brood

We talk every week. We all gathered together for Mother's Day and we will gather again on Father's Day. Like a lot of men of his generation, my dad never liked attention. We knew not to “fuss.”

He's never held political office or had his name in lights. He lives a quiet life, but he's living it well. He was a good son and is, to this day, a good brother, husband, father, neighbor, and friend.

I'm telling my father's story because you and I both know that life doesn't go on forever. Why not take some time this month to tell your dad, or a dad you know, how much you respect and value them?

I think the world of my dad and am so thankful that for the 62 years I've been on this earth, my dad has been my bucket filler. That has made all the difference in the world to me and to so many others.

Happy Father's Day, dad. We love you.

Making a Difference

Total appearances by the
Bucket Fillers Team
September 2006 to June 2012
Sessions: 2,244
Attendance: 342,000

* Visit our website for a complete list of bucketfilling schools and organizations.

Designed and edited by Glenny Merillat

Congratulations, Ron!

Ron Shnider, of Sylvania Ohio, is our bucket filler of the week. You have a book coming your way. Every bucket filler is a winner. Encourage your friends to get their buckets filled by subscribing to our free e-newsletter at www.bucketfillers101.com

Words of Wisdom

“You know, fathers just have a way of putting everything together.”—
Erika Cosby