

EDITOR'S LETTER



Father's Day

FATHER'S DAY WAS STARTED IN SPOKANE, IN 1910, making us somewhat of experts when it comes to fathers. I consider myself an expert though, because I have the world's best father. I have learned so much from my dad, and he has helped make me the person I am today.

He's taught me by example how a husband should treat his wife, and that it is worth waiting for the right man. He has taught me what commitment means, as he and my mom have been married for almost 44 years. They met in Germany, where my mom was teaching for the American military schools, and my dad was stationed in the Army. That military background showed itself whenever he was on duty to tuck my sisters and I in at night. He'd tuck the sheets tight enough for inspection, wedging us in like sardines. We secretly loved it.

He's taught me about the importance of time spent together. I wasn't the most coordinated or graceful little tyke, but that didn't prevent my parents from signing me up for ballet lessons. I was not happy, because they were on Saturday mornings, during the Bugs Bunny cartoons. My dad made it up to me by taking me to Great Harvest afterward, to get cinnamon rolls together.

He's taught me how to have an imagination. There was a tree at Comstock Park we always walked by that my dad called the Elf Tree. At the base of the trunk was a carved out spot that distinctly looked like a door. Each time we would walk through the park, he made sure we stopped and knocked on the elf door to see if the elves were at home. For some reason, they were never there, but we always knocked, wondering what great adventures they were off to.

He's taught me of God's love for us, and cultivated a rich faith in my family. Every Sunday we were expected to be at church with my parents, no questions asked. At some point, obligation turned into a desire, nurtured by watching my father live out his faith, and desiring to have that faith for myself.

He's taught me to love reading. Nine times out of ten, when it comes to free time, my dad has his nose in a book. He consumes books at an astonishing rate and passed that love of reading on to me. When I was little he would read a book to me, a chapter at a time, when he tucked me in at night. One book that he read was *The Rats of NIMH*. As he got closer to the ending he realized there was a tragic fate awaiting one of the characters. Knowing my tender heart could not handle it, unbeknownst to me, he quickly changed the ending. When I got older and could read, I discovered the truth!

He's taught me the value of being educated. My dad's wisdom seems endless to me. Sit through a show of *Jeopardy* and you'll understand. He nails every answer with assurance, only occasionally being stumped. Once, during a game of *Trivial Pursuit* he and my mom made their way around the entire board before any of the other teams got a chance to play, because my dad knew the answer to every question.

He's taught me to have a sense of humor. One of my favorite things when I was younger was when I'd go to the grocery store with my dad, and I'd beg him to do my favorite trick. He would place his hands over my ears, and I'd hold onto his wrists, so when he lifted his arms, it looked like he was picking me up by my ears. We loved to do that in the grocery store and scare our fellow shoppers, laughing mischievously together at the reactions.

He's taught me that I am worth his time. When I was in 4th grade and my mom had gone back to teaching, I was so sad to not have her be able to help with the class parties. My dad, who had a more flexible schedule, signed up as the only "Room Father." I remember being so proud when he came to help with the Halloween party! He still lets me know I am worth his time. You never get too old to need your father, as I have learned. Some of my best meals have been lunch with my dad, getting advice and talking through problems.

Fathers are such an important part of our lives and have a lasting influence. As we celebrate Father's Day—Spokane's holiday—I hope you take the time to appreciate the father or father figures in your life. I know I will. I love you, Dad!!

Blythe

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