

WILLIAM E. HYCHE

70 YEARS OF LOVE, GRACE AND KINDNESS

Dedicated with love to Bill Hyche:

Son, Brother, Husband, Father, Uncle, Mentor, Grandfather, Friend.

Being happy in life is a choice. Living with integrity and leading by example is also a choice. While we know these choices are not easy, Bill Hyche seems to make them effortlessly. He looks at life through eyes that always see the bright side or the lesson to be learned.

This book is in honor of all the lives Bill has touched in his 70 years. Family and friends, young and old have been given the gift of sharing a part of their lives with Bill. He has touched lives in ways that he will never know and his seeds of wisdom and the example he sets will forever be a part of them. Edith Wharton wrote, "There are two ways of spreading light: to be the candle or the mirror that reflects it." Bill is both the candle and the mirror and he spreads light to everyone he meets.

Throughout this book written by his friends and family, you will see recurring themes throughout Bill's life and how he lives it – happy, inspiring, loving, adventurous and open. Bill Hyche is greatly loved and this Book is only a small expression of that love.

THE MAN IN MY LIFE



FROM:

LENORA HYCHE

My life fully began with my meeting Bill. The story of our meeting is now a family historical fact! It was Labor Day weekend before my senior year in high school. My parents took us to South Padre Island for our last weekend before school. We NEVER went to the beach as they didn't like it. My then boyfriend could not go as he was grounded. I was NOT a happy camper. Both of my sisters had their boyfriends along. The day changed the minute I saw Bill playing foosball with his little brother and sister. He looked like a Greek god to me! Blonde, sun-bleached hair, bronze body, and cut-off jeans riding low on his tall, lanky, but broad-shouldered body. I swear I fell in love at first sight. I walked up to him and asked if I could play. We were together the rest of the day. We held hands walking along the beach, he told me a fairy tale of why the waves turn to foam as they reach the beach and he gave me my first French kiss. I went home that night telling God that he was who I wanted to marry. Now 48 wonderful and exciting years later, I am still glad God granted my prayer. We are a team; he is my best friend, my spiritual advisor, my lover, a fabulous father and grandfather. He is and has always been my soulmate. I love you, Bill Hyche.



Lana King: Wedding photo... beautiful thing when the dreams on your wedding day become a reality - thank you for being such amazing parents!



Laura Shay: Mom and Dad - 40th wedding anniversary

FAVORITE MEMORIES



FROM:
LANA KING

“I’M HYCHE... JUST BILL ME!”

One of many favorite memories...

1980, Down in McAllen, Texas... Mom and Laura were off on a Girl Scout camping trip... I joined my dad on a weekend trip to his hometown for an annual fajita cook-off. We arrived at the cook-off ready to grill tasty fajitas. The plan was to keep it simple - great meat with a little pico de gallo. Once the grill was going and the adults had the beer flowing, I was instructed to go have fun and check in every now and again. I sampled my fair share of fajitas, played tag with local kids, listened to the adults tell stories that were surely not meant for my ears and (thankfully) stayed clear of trouble. It was a wild, crazy time and was my first experience on my own in the wild without my big sister.

My grandparents, Gigi and Ed, came to collect me in the late afternoon (much to my dismay and dad’s relief) and tucked me in safely at their home on Camelia. When I fell asleep that night, I felt about ten years older - thanks for letting me loose in the wild and keeping me safe.

I first met Bill in Houston in the early 70s. He was working as a programmer/analyst for the same company (Singer Business Machines) where I was employed as a business machine salesman. At the time, we were both young and struggling to make a living and support our families. Back then, I remember Bill as being bright, sort of cocky, and having an engaging personality. In those days we worked hard and partied hard, and Bill was always enthusiastic about both work and play. He quickly graduated from programming and sales support and became a salesman like myself.

The sales department where we worked was always under constant pressure to make the sales quota, and the salesmen worked on straight commission with a draw. Instead of getting a monthly commission check, I can remember occasionally getting a commission statement from the company that showed a "balance

owed company" for a commission total.

While you could make a very good living in sales, there was no job security, and there was constant turnover. The incessant pressure to produce and make quota produced a "fox hole" mentality in the sales office, since everyone was constantly worried about getting terminated if they didn't produce enough. To compound the pressure, the company we worked for got into financial trouble due to overexpansion and excessive debt. We not only had to worry about getting fired, we had to worry about the company going out of business and losing our jobs, even if we were making our sales quota.

These were the conditions under which both Bill and I worked for a number of years. Even though we were all under a lot of pressure and stress, Bill was always optimistic and upbeat. To blow off

steam, we all did a lot of drinking and partying - in which Bill was always an active participant, if not the instigator. He kept us loose and made us forget about the constant pressure we were all under.

The pressure under which we all worked turned the office and sales staff into a close-knit group of "survivors." Most of us were newly married, living paycheck to paycheck, and had wives and babies to support. Everyone shared their hopes and fears, so that all the employees got to know each other very well, and we became like a family. Bill was a big part of this because he always put himself out there and was open and honest with everyone about his feelings and opinions. He also genuinely cared about his fellow employees' welfare and was always supportive of everyone.

Our company finally did go out of business in the 70s and all the employees scattered in different directions and took up new jobs and professions. However, none of us ever forgot our unique experience of working together during those crazy, stressful times. In fact, many years later, many of us who had worked together in those days in Houston got together again for a reunion, to reminisce about our past experiences and find out what everyone had done

with their lives after our company went under.

I lost track of Bill after I moved to Austin, and it was by chance that I met him 30 years later at Rocco's when I was dating someone living in Lakeway. I quickly realized that Bill hadn't changed a bit from the days I knew him in Houston. It was like opening a time capsule. When I recently saw and visited with him again, it was apparent that he is still the same person that he was when I first met him. He is still upbeat, self-confident, gregarious, and caring. Like me, he is a survivor and has been strengthened by adversity. He also still lives in the moment just like he did 30 or 40 years ago. I doubt that becoming 70 will change Bill - he will always be the same way I remember him.

FROM:
JALEH TEYMOURIAN

I know this is about our favorite Bill memories, but in my mind, how do you separate Bill and Lenora? You simply can't.

My family moved in down the street from the Hyches in the 70s. Bill and Lenora's eldest daughter Laura and I became best friends, and I quickly became a fixture in their home. Bill used to call me "Gilette" to tease me because Jaleh isn't an easy name to pronounce. Lenora would call me "Turtle" or "Pigpen," both of which I believe are self-explanatory. Bill would regale us with songs on his guitar and make the most delicious fajitas, and drove the coolest convertible. Lenora let us play Bee Gees and Cher records and dance in the living room, kept us in line and basically welcomed me as a third daughter into their home. When my mother had a terrible accident and broke her back, I spent many days at the Hyche home. After many months in the hospital, my mother was able to return home, but was unable to do much. Lenora would wash her hair, and do

other acts of kindness for our family.

When my parents announced we were moving to London, England, for my father's work, I told them I would not be going, and instead would move in with the Hyches. In my young mind, it was that simple. Of course, it was because I felt that welcomed and loved by Bill and Lenora that I would assume they would take me in.

Bill and Lenora are unique people who make others feel their worth. I recognized it as a little girl, and I see it as a grown woman. I see it in the two beautiful, incredible daughters they raised, whom I am still so lucky to call my friends. Thank you for the gift of friendship. I love you all.



FROM:
DAVID CHRISTOPHER GORE

My favorite memory of your dad (parents) is when we (Laura, Ken, Mike and Mike and Angel) were in college. We were so young and full of hopes and dreams. They took us out on the lake in the boat. True to your dad's nature, he slowed the boat down and we all enjoyed the sunset as we trolled along in the lake. We were talking and laughing and sharing, and asking your dad's advice. That memory has always stuck with me. Thanks for taking the time to mentor some young people. And of course who can forget Angel's wedding down South? It was so great of your parents to come along. We had so much fun. I had/have so much respect for the both of them. Happy 70th, Bill!!!!

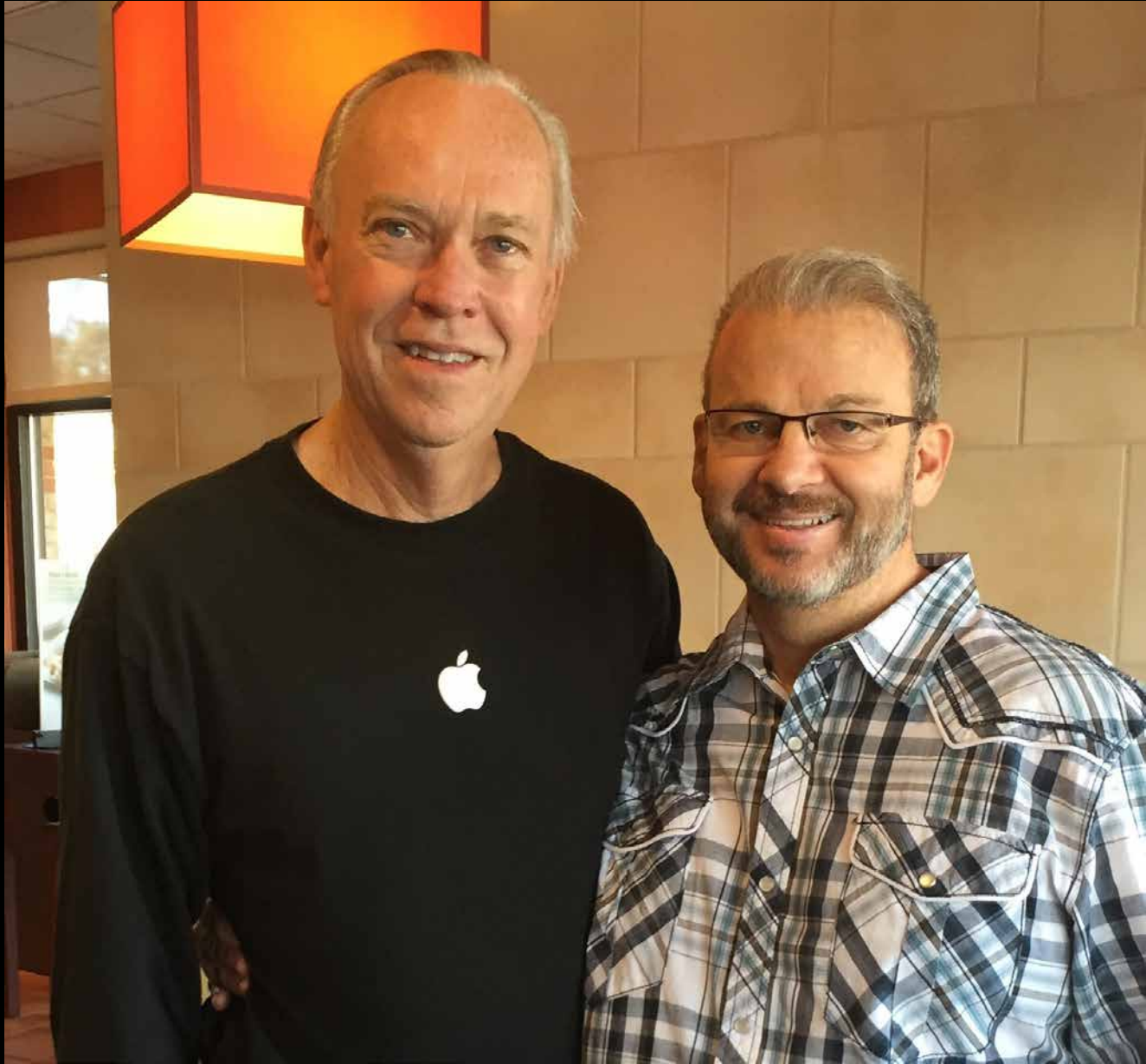
FROM:
TOM BETTES

Balls! My favorite memories of Bill mostly seem to revolve around balls: pool balls, Bocce balls, golf balls. Most people do not know this, but Bill and I are brothers; at least, that is what we told many young barmaids as we were playing pool. We looked enough alike to fool everyone but our wives. Discovering new honky-tonks and bars was something we both enjoyed, and it's probably best that many of the stories stay buried in those bars. Bill always had a new idea that we would flesh out while we were playing pool or sitting at the bar. Bill brings out the creative part of me. We hatched such great ideas as "Anti-Fat Cream" and shared stories of our lives.

Hours of Bocce Ball on the beach in South Padre, with the fun of competition and teaming up with a family of friends, brings back so many great memories, and of course, great stories to share over and over. Even though we do not see each other often anymore since we moved from Lakeway, I will always treasure Bill's friendship, counsel, and love of life.

By the way, besides playing with different kinds of balls, Bill also loves the water and eating and beautiful ladies. Check out other posts with more pictures.





FROM:
PETER STROPLE

I met Bill about three years ago, and I've always found him to be a classy and significant person. He's always had his life in order with God, family and everybody else. He's one of the classiest human beings I've ever had the chance to spend time with. I was so impressed when he first gave me the little book that he had written for his grandchildren, teaching them about the things he had learned in life - things that he deemed so important that he wanted to pass them on in a book that would be easy to share. The book is full of the little things that make Bill Bill. How I wish my grandfather and father had cared enough about us to give us the same gift!

There's nothing complex about Bill - he's all heart, and he's all love, and he's the real deal. Every time I'm with him I wish I WERE him; I especially wish I LOOKED like him. Perhaps I wish for a moment that the world would see me sitting with him, making myself look taller and more significant than I really am.

Bill, I can't give you anything more than who I am, but I can say one thing: I'm a better person because I have had the chance to have you in my life. I always hug you with the goal

PETER STROPLE

of having something rub off on me that would make me be more like you.

I cherish our friendship, and I'm just honored to call you my friend and mentor. They say legacy is not something you leave for people, but something that you believe in people. Your legacy is safe because it's inside of everybody you've met. I love you, my friend; thank you for being in my life, and thank you for being so real and so damn good-looking. Did I ever tell you that I am the tallest in my family? I still can't believe that you're 70 years old (there must be a joke in that) - you're gonna look amazing when you're 150!

Thank you for allowing us to spend a little time in this world together. I love you.

Your Friend, Peter

FROM:
SHAWN THOMAS



Among my favorite Bill memories are the many times he found ways in conversations to bring up his love for his cat, Lola. Always ready to pull up a photo on his phone or to tell a story of her exploits, he was overflowing with love for Lola.

FROM:
LAURA SHAY



My birthday parties were always a big hit. Why? Because my dad WAS the entertainment. Sitting us all in a circle with his guitar, making up songs about each girl there - then putting on records and dancing in the living room. Who needed a bouncy house?? We had Bill!!

FROM:
KEN WATKINS



And there we are... that might be Bill behind the camera at my wedding. Laura, and all of us that she, Bill and Lenora adopted when we were in college. Family comes in many different forms.

FROM:
KYLE UPCHURCH

I can't think of just one favorite memory with Bill, because all my shared time with him has been so special. Bill and Lenora made me feel like I had family in Austin, and Bill is someone I've always looked up to as a role model and all-around great dad. I have many, many fond memories of hanging out with Bill and Lenora and the gang at Vincent's on the Lake, Baby A's, and that forgotten Mexican place near Pearl's Oyster Bar.

Happy 70th Birthday, Bill!

All my Best,

Kyle



FROM:
ANGEL SUSTAETA

My all-time favorite memory of Bill is the evening back in 1990 when all “his guys” from UT - Michael Willman, Dave Gore, Mike Andritsos, Ken Watkins, and I - got dressed up in suits and ties (some of us had to borrow them!) and met Bill for dinner at Hudson’s on the Bend. It was a night to remember - an amazing dinner (far better than the Ramen noodles that were a staple in our diets), great wine, and we even smoked some cigars.

We were all full of aspirations and fears about the future, and Bill gave us the pep talk of our lives - reminding us how big dreams and hard work would help us achieve the goals we set for ourselves, and that we had each of us had the attitude and drive to win at life. He gave each of us a copy of Anthony Robbins' *Unlimited Power*, and wrote each of us a personal note (I still have both).

I say the pep talk of our lives, because that was the first time since I had gone off to college that an adult male told me he believed in

me. My own father had bailed from the family some time back, and would only sporadically show up in my life, so Bill was my stand-in dad while at UT.

What became of “the guys” from UT??

- Michael Willman is now a successful ophthalmologist;
- Dave Gore is now a successful OB/GYN;
- Mike Andritsos is now a successful heart doctor and teaches at Ohio State University;
- Ken Watkins is a successful IT Executive;
- and as for me, I’m humbled to lead the Latin American business for a software company.

I think Bill's pep talk had an impact! Thank you Bill, and Happy 70th Birthday!!

With all my love, Angel Sustaeta

FROM:

SUSAN W

In 1999, I got Bill's name as a person I should talk with about learning systems in healthcare. We chatted on the phone, and the next time he was in Nashville, we met in person. Instant friends!

After a morning meeting with a group of executives, we were both tired of listening to pontificating academics and posturing business leaders. In the past, we went out to civilized lunches at restaurants, but on this lovely autumn day, I asked Bill if he was up for a change of venue. Bill's nothing if not spontaneous, so we went to the drive through at Fat Mo's hamburgers, then on to a park near campus. It was a glorious time... laughter, greasy hamburgers, falling yellow leaves, and sweet friendship. As long as Bill and I are on the planet, we'll share the memory of that afternoon in the sunshine. I'm grateful for him, his spirit, and the talisman of that time we were together. Ah Lowenstein, Lowenstein!

FAMILY ROAD TRIPS... MOM & LAURA

ASLEEP IN THE BACK, ME IN FRONT WITH

DAD TALKING, SOLVING THE PROBLEMS

OF THE WORLD... TIME SPENT TALKING

WITH YOU IS PRICELESS.

Lana King

FROM:
RAE LYNN SMITH

Bill Hyché has taught me perfection. I've known him since I was a little baby. A memory from childhood that stands out for me is when he and my father went sailing. I think I was about three years old. I recall, standing on a pier watching as they completed a day's sailing trip, returning to the harbor. I was with my mom, Barbara, Lenora, Laura, Rob, and Lana on the pier. We all stood there watching as they were trying to make their way back - and the sail boat tipped over. There were our dads - in the water, capsized in the harbor. I was panicked. I thought I was watching them both drown! I thought I had lost them. I was screaming hysterically. And then their heads appeared and they were laughing hysterically. They started swimming and climbed onto a distant pier. I realized that everything was fine, in fact everything was perfect.

Now, more than 40 years later, I reflect on many more situations where I felt things were abysmal, and Bill's positive words of encouragement helped me see the perfection in life. When I was going through a divorce and I thought everything was wrong about me, he somehow



made me feel perfect and beautiful. He is unconditional love.

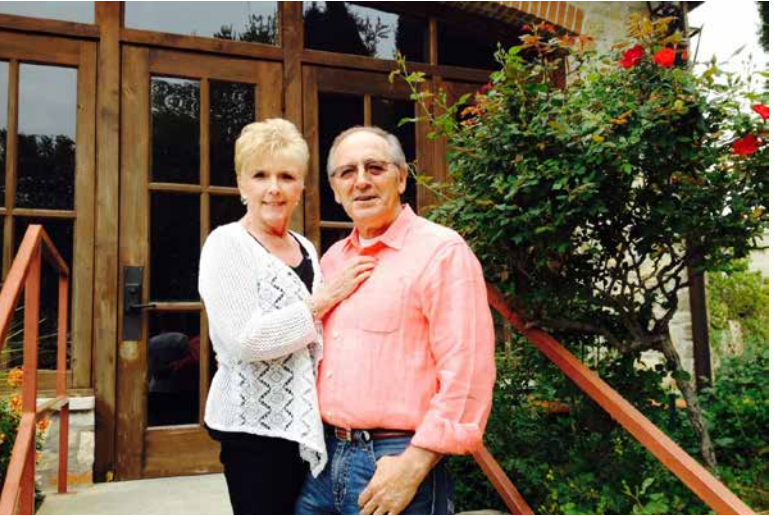
Thank you so much for always making me feel beautiful and perfect. In life, we get one dad, but in this life, I get two. Thank you, Bill, for being a second dad and a perfect teacher of unconditional love.

Happy Birthday!! Love, Rae

FROM:
TERESA AND BOB GARRISON

Bill and I first met in 1985 when he owned a company in Austin that sold computers to the healthcare industry. That was the start of a business relationship and friendship that has lasted over 30 years. I always enjoyed working with Bill because he was a man of integrity. He made things right if they weren't, and he was always there for the customer.

As time has progressed, Bill, Lenora, Bob and I enjoyed getting together periodically. We have had some great, fun times (even had a couple of bets going during the World Series - go Royals!). Bill's family is very important to him and he is a loving husband, wonderful father and grandfather. He is also a true friend. This is such an awesome privilege for us to be able to wish Bill our very best on his 70th birthday!



FROM:
DAN NIELSEN

DAN NIELSEN

I have many wonderful memories and stories regarding my very unique and gifted friend Bill Hyche.

Bill loves people – I love people. Bill looks for and focuses on the good in people – I look for and focus on the good in people. Bill encourages people and builds them up. Hopefully I do the same. Bill is a writer – I am a writer. Bill is a publisher – I am a publisher. Bill is a professional speaker – I am a professional speaker. Bill loves to read, learn, study and apply the best of what he learns – I love to read, study and learn. Bill delivers on his promises and keeps his commitments. Hopefully I do the same, but admit to needing much improvement. Bill is an inspirational leader. People tell me that I am an inspirational leader. Bill memorizes inspirational literature – I memorize inspirational literature.

Despite its faults and weaknesses, Bill Hyche focuses on the positive and loves America – I love America.

Bill Hyche is an excellent husband, father, grandfather, friend, colleague, along with many other positive and uplifting roles in every area of his life. I look up to and highly respect Bill in every one of these crucially important areas of life. Bill is truly interested in other people and their welfare. He consistently demonstrates sincere respect and admiration for others. Bill focuses on and loves to serve others. Hopefully I do the same.

Some people rise to the top, not because of money or material wealth, but because of their true and consistently demonstrated honesty, sincerity, dependability, integrity and service to others. THIS IS BILL HYCHE!

Some people are incredibly blessed, honored, and privileged to know and to have been impacted by the life, actions and legacy of Bill Hyche. I am one of those very, very lucky people!

BILL HAS IMPACTED
MY LIFE BY...



FROM:

LENORA HYCHE

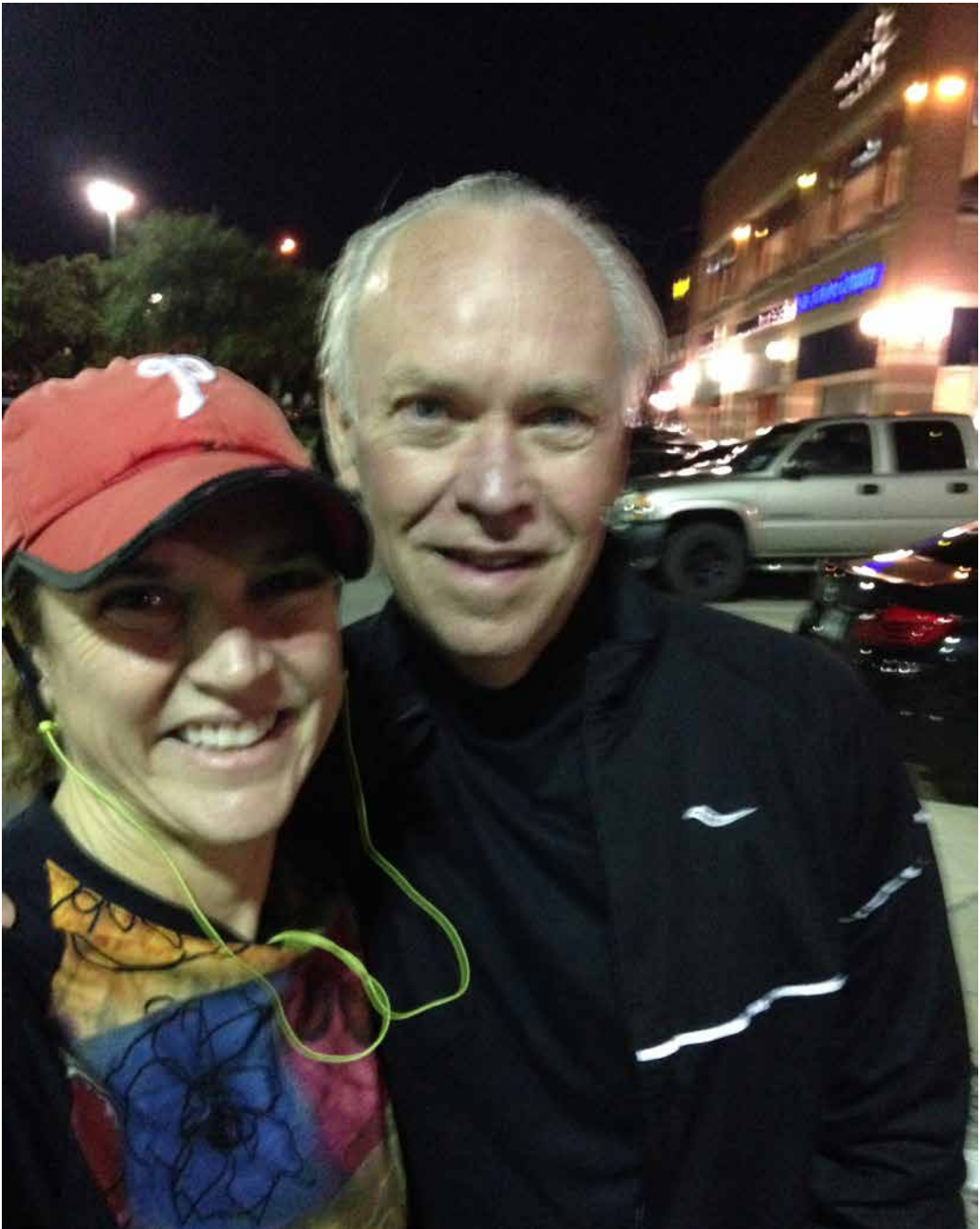
I truly started growing into the woman, wife, mother, grandmother and friend that I have become when Bill came into my life. He has been the best friend and mentor I could have ever imagined. I've become more patient, less judgemental and kinder because of the example he sets and the standards to which he holds me. He has taught me to listen, to people and to the Universe. My spiritual life has grown because of Bill. We have a partnership that loves, supports and holds each other accountable. Bill never takes me for granted. He loves and cherishes me each and every day. I love him bringing me coffee every morning in bed - yes, I'm very spoiled! And I thank him every morning. He tells me I'm beautiful and that he loves me every day. Bill has encouraged the creative side of me which I had never had the confidence to develop. The impact of who I am and how I am still growing is because of Bill's love and belief in me. We've been married for 48 years and each one has been an honor to share with him. Here's to many more years of happiness, the ups and downs of life and the joy of becoming all we can be by each other's side. I love you with all my heart and soul. - Your Pussycat

FROM:
ROB SMITH

I've known Bill longer than my memory can recall. I was very young when he and Lenora met my parents. My earliest memory is when Lana was born. So about 29 years ago? Just the fact that they have been present throughout my life has had an impact. For example, he made a daughter that I took to my first formal dance. Thanks Laura!

Back on topic: Bill has impacted my life by his perseverance and commitment. No matter the situation, Bill is always positive and doesn't give up. For years I would see him out running on Saturday mornings on the trail, by himself. Whatever the conditions, he'd make the trip into town. He would be sweating and focused, but as soon as he saw me he'd crack a smile and be happy Bill, glad to see me. I would usually be exhausted, but after seeing him out there, it would motivate me to finish my run.

Thinking back, that's how Bill has always been. Whenever our families were involved in some crazy situation, Bill would be the positive influence that helped us persevere through it - and laugh about it later. He has maintained a commitment to family, friends, and the community that continues to this day. He's had an impact on all of us.



FROM:
LAURA SHAY

One of the great impacts my dad has had in my life is introducing me to running. We've run a marathon and countless half-marathons together; we've memorized passages while running; we've talked over miles and miles about business ideas, relationship challenges, politics, raising kids, why God invented (put whatever you can think of here... strangers, port-a-potties, funny signs in windows), work issues, and what is the best hairstyle for either or both of us.

He taught me that running wasn't about going fast or far, but was a gift that should be used and shouldn't be taken lightly. Not everyone can run. Not everyone feels free and clear and inspired when they run. Not everyone can continue running decade after decade. So I keep running. And I enjoy it. And I talk to people when I'm running. And I stop and help people if they need my help. And I appreciate my legs and my stamina, and my body. And I thank my father for it every time.

FROM:
KIM GORSUCH

Bill is fantastic at coming up with short and pithy statements that combine honesty and directness with graciousness. One of my favorites thus far is to say, “That doesn’t work for me.” Such a simple statement, and yet so powerful. It sets a boundary and does it in the nicest possible way. The statement is not aggressive, and hard to misinterpret. It keeps the conversation open while closing off non-productive discussion. This little sentence will be in my repertoire for a long time to come.

FROM:
MIKE AND PATSY WEINBERG

We met Bill and Lenora almost 30 years ago when we were searching for a church. Mike was not yet a Christian but was seeking. I was thrilled to go to ANY church he felt comfortable in, as long as it was a place that would partner with me to share the love of Christ with Mike. We came to Riverbend, and were directed to the Hyche Sunday School class.

This was Mike’s first exposure to a small group setting, and Bill and Mike clicked immediately. Bill’s genuineness and his ability to lead our discussions with intelligence and humor showed Mike what it looked like to walk in faith. The openness Bill and Lenora showed both of us, and their ability to allow Mike the room and the freedom to ask questions and challenge ideas without judging him, was the perfect atmosphere for both of us. Bill spoke to Mike in ways I couldn’t. While Bill and Lenora were walking beside Mike in his journey, both were supporting me quietly as well with hugs and the



encouragement that they were praying for us.

When Mike announced to our group that he had prayed to accept Christ, Bill and Lenora were the first to embrace him and celebrate, and at Mike’s baptism at Riverbend, Gerald Mann (our pastor) explained to the congregation what an influence the Hyches and the class had had on Mike’s journey.

We remained members of Riverbend for about 8 more years until we

MIKE AND PATSY WEINBERG

we transferred with work to the Dallas area. We’ve been in Plano for 21 years, and after we found our home, the first decision was to find a church like Riverbend. Not only did God lead us to Legacy Church, he also led us to a small group with a leader who reminded us a little of Bill. We’ve been at Legacy ever since, where both of us have continued to grow in our faith, leading and loving our two beautiful daughters to the Lord, and serving in almost every leadership role, including small group leaders.

Words cannot express the impact both Bill and Lenora had in those early days of our marriage, and continue to have on us, but I cannot imagine a greater impact on any life than helping to lead a brilliant, fantastic young man to Christ.

Happy 70th Birthday, Bill! We wish you the greatest birthday ever and wishes for many, many more wonderful celebrations to come.

Much love,
Mike, Patsy, Cassie, and Olivia Weinberg



FROM:
SHANNON CORDRAY

It is hard to articulate the impact Mr. Hyche - "Bill" - has had on me. His daughter Laura and I grew up together and have had too many good, funny, crazy, laughable moments and memories to mention, and the Hyche family is woven through most of them. Mr. Hyche was/is a kind, generous man who leads by example with trust, communication and love. In their household, there was no reason to feel shy, self-conscious, or uncertain. There was every reason to feel comfortable, appreciated, and interesting. That's a great way to feel, especially for a "tween." So welcoming were they, it felt like family...what a blessing. Oh, and when I was about twelve, I opened my back door (fairly late at night) to see my father standing there in a towel (only). He had walked home sans clothes because Mr. Hyche stole them during a neighborhood swim party. Never a dull moment! Love you all! xoxo

FROM:
SARA MACKIE SHULL

MY LIFE CHANGED

My life changed 28 years ago when my eyes met Bill's across the Southwest Airline departure lounge at Hobby airport. We were both reading the Time Magazine about the high tech advances. He smiled. I smiled. We both went back to reading. Only later did I realize this chance meeting would open up a whole new world of friends, ideas and adventures. I had an inkling that this stranger might play more than a bit part in my life when he rescued me from Ben Barnes as we boarded the plane. He followed me on board and plunked himself down next to me. We started a conversation that is still going on.

From that first encounter grew a friendship that has included many wonderful adventures and seen many changes in our lives. On that flight I told Bill about Windstar, which later became a major focus of our lives. He told me about the Forum and Money and You, which also opened up many new doors and other lasting friendships. We covered a lot in that short flight from Houston! The result? He introduced me to Lenora at the Austin airport, and before you knew it, we, along with Don and Anna Kate, were off to the first of many Choices for the Future in Aspen - truly life-changing events.



There are too many memories of Choices and John Denver and the Austin Windstar Connection to name, but Bill's faith in our ability to found the Austin Connection is illustrated in what he did to launch it: By "throwing his hat over the fence" with a \$1,000 contribution we were able to get it started while we were in Aspen. That gesture and commitment are hallmarks of Bill's personality. His enthusiasm and optimism are infectious to everyone and often the reason for the success of anything he does. And many of us are just happy to be along for the ride.

Besides Windstar, the longest and best connection that Don and I had with Bill and Lenora centered around golf - a game that neither of them played very much before we came along. But we had many wonderful games, golfing expeditions and trips. Carmel and the-most-expensive-golf-round-ever-played at Pebble Beach will never be forgotten! Nor our trips to Scottsdale and New Orleans, especially the final one. And who could forget our annual "Famous Christmas Dinners?" The memory of Don's and Lenora's special bond at the freezing First Annual Dinner in Georgetown as we dined in our fur coats will last a lifetime.

One thing led to another and before long I was involved in producing videos for his various companies and doing other work for him. What a joy to work with someone as creative and fun as Bill!

Bill is a lifelong friend who has made my life happier and better. I love you, Bill! Happy Birthday!

Sara

FROM:

ASHLEY METCALF

I met Bill 13 years ago at Sueann Fruge's birthday. Within the first few moments of conversation I felt as if I had made a friend. I admit I was a bit lost at that time in my life, and somehow Bill understood that and began to offer encouragement, guidance and positivity. Soon we were keeping in touch and occasionally grabbing lunch at Houston's. I remember feeling so grateful and humbled that someone like Bill was willing to spend some of his time building me up. From career and networking pointers to advice about family, friends and life in general, Bill was there for me when I needed his input. Also, it was just really fun to hang out and laugh with him and Lenora. They made me feel like I was family and I pretty much claimed them as such, so now they are stuck with me for the long run!

Now on the best part of this story, which is how Bill changed my life. Bill introduced me to the man who is now my beloved husband. How do I even begin to thank someone for bringing my soulmate into my life?! All of these years of love and adventure with Justin and raising our amazing kids together, so much of the happiness in my life started with Bill. Talk about life-changing!! As for how this introduction happened, I will tell my version of the story, although as is often the case, Bill's version is FAR more entertaining to hear! I recall Bill telling me about

a guy I should meet who happened to have the same (somewhat uncommon) last name as I did at the time. I thought that was a pretty cool coincidence, but I was dating someone else then so I declined. Not long after that, Bill mentioned Justin again and was “selling him” pretty damn well. Bill even told me that the guy I was dating was NOT so great. It was so direct and honest that I thought for better or worse I’m gonna trust Bill on this one. I told the boyfriend that I was going to meet someone else because I trusted Bill and of course he was furious. Understandably so, poor guy. Anyway, I met Bill and Lenora at Cheesecake Factory and they introduced me to Justin. Then the Hyches conveniently ducked out so Justin and I could chat. Not long after that I broke up with other guy and began dating Justin. Of course we fell madly in love and after about 2 years, Justin proposed. We had a lovely engagement party at a friend’s home and it was there that Bill surprised me yet again. He got everyone’s attention as if making a toast and then pulled his day-timer book out and held it up. He showed everyone that the day he met me at Sueann’s birthday, he had written down my name as “Ashley Metcalf” which is my current married name. At the time my maiden name was Acuff, but even after realizing the “mistake,” he decided to keep me recorded as Metcalf because he believed I would be Mrs. Metcalf one day. I had no idea that he had thought of me as Justin’s wife long before I ever was. I take that

as a huge compliment actually. So that explained why he had said we had the same last name, even though we didn’t initially. That last name tidbit is probably why I decided to meet Justin. I love that Bill pays attention to life’s little signs, I love that Bill has been a mentor to both me and Justin all these years and I love every little conversation, light or heavy, we’ve ever had. In short, I love Bill. I’d love him, Lenora and the whole family even if they hadn’t introduced me to Justin, but that is definitely a wonderful perk!

Lastly, on the topic of life changing, 2.5 years ago we had our little twins and the Hyches have played a special role in their lives as well. I hope my Jack & Ellie get to know Bill and the whole family over the years. Bill is a rare, kind and brilliant man who lives life to the fullest and loves his family and friends fiercely. Of course, I want his influence in our children’s life as they grow up.

Thank you for everything, Bill. You and your family mean more to me than I can express. We all love you like crazy and send you the very best birthday wishes. Cheers to the one and only Bill Hyche!

FROM:
STEVE ANDERSON

10 WAYS THAT BILL HAS IMPACTED MY LIFE

Many of you know how Bill has summarized many things in lists, words, etc. While this may be too long, I was inspired to share. Here are the 10 ways that Mr. Bill has impacted my life:

1. Negotiator – I first met Bill when he was with Computer Information Architects (CIA) and I worked for a major hospital company (HCA). We were trying to work out a deal where our doctors could use the CIA product. We met at their offices in Austin and were working through negotiating a contract. After several hours of negotiation, we were close to getting it done. At a critical moment, a scorpion fell from the ceiling on my papers. At that point, I decided that Bill was the best negotiator that I had ever dealt with and signed the deal.

2. Sales Inspiration – Bill is the reason why I moved into sales. He helped me see the opportunity in sales and changed my entire career. He sealed my interest in moving into sales when we had our

interview floating on life jackets and drinking beer on Lake Travis when I decided to leave HCA for sales.

3. Courage - At Jalisco in Austin one night, Bill engaged in a conversation with the group next to us. To make a long story short, we ended up doing shots with them and Bill challenged one of their party to eat the worm in the bottle. At the same time, Bill and the lady both said, “If you eat half, I will eat the other half.” When they ate the worm, I realized how courageous Bill was.

4. Coach - Bill was my first boss in sales and taught many different skills that I have used throughout my career. The most important thing that he taught me was to “listen to the customer.” It still amazes me how many salespeople do not know how to listen. I have also used many of the techniques that I learned from Bill in both my work and in coaching others.

5. Husband – Bill and Lenora are two great people that were made for each other. They have a unique bond in their love for each other.

6. Father – I watched Bill over the years as he has helped his two wonderful daughters grow into exceptional people. They have been able to embrace and display many of Bill and Lenora’s greatest qualities. While I do not know his grandsons, I do know that they have benefited from two Hyche generations to help shape them and their attitudes.

7. How to deal with a hangover – As you may know, Bill could play hard at night and work hard the next day. He showed me how to play through injuries and still perform at a high level. However, there was one morning where we stopped to get coffee before going to the office. When we got back to the car, Bill could not figure out how to open the door as he had coffee in one hand and water in the other... He finally figured it out...

8. Mentor – I have been proud to call Bill a mentor throughout my career. He has helped me learn and grow in so many ways. He has also watched as I didn’t succeed at something and learned some lessons the hard way. He would always lend an ear and advice when I needed it.



9. Peer – Even though Bill was a boss and a mentor, he also became a peer. I have been fortunate to be able to learn from Bill, but I think that I have also helped him learn. There have been many times when he wanted my advice and assistance as he looked at the next venture and/or idea.

10. Friend – Most of all, I am proud to call Mr. Bill my friend. While we have had periods where we spent a lot of time together and other times when we don’t see each other much (like now), I always know that Bill is only a quick phone call away and would do anything for me. I love Bill (not in that way) and look forward to many more years of friendship.

BILL'S SUPER-HERO
POWERS ARE...

FROM:
HONORÉE CORDER

That he has an unending supply of brilliant ideas. I always leave my conversations with him with lots of new things to think about. His quick wit, keen mind, and huge heart are a wonderful combination. We met at Lola's "by chance," but I know it was serendipity, and I've been grateful every day since. Bill, happy birthday, my friend! Here's to 70 more! Love you! Honorée

FROM:
SHAWN THOMAS

With every opportunity I have to spend time with, or around, Bill, I gain fresh understanding of the fact that I have so much more to learn. He leads the way toward greater compassion for everyone and increased efforts to make sure that everyone is well taken care of. I greatly appreciate the many chances I've had to learn from his example and his wisdom. To me his greatest super-hero power is grace.



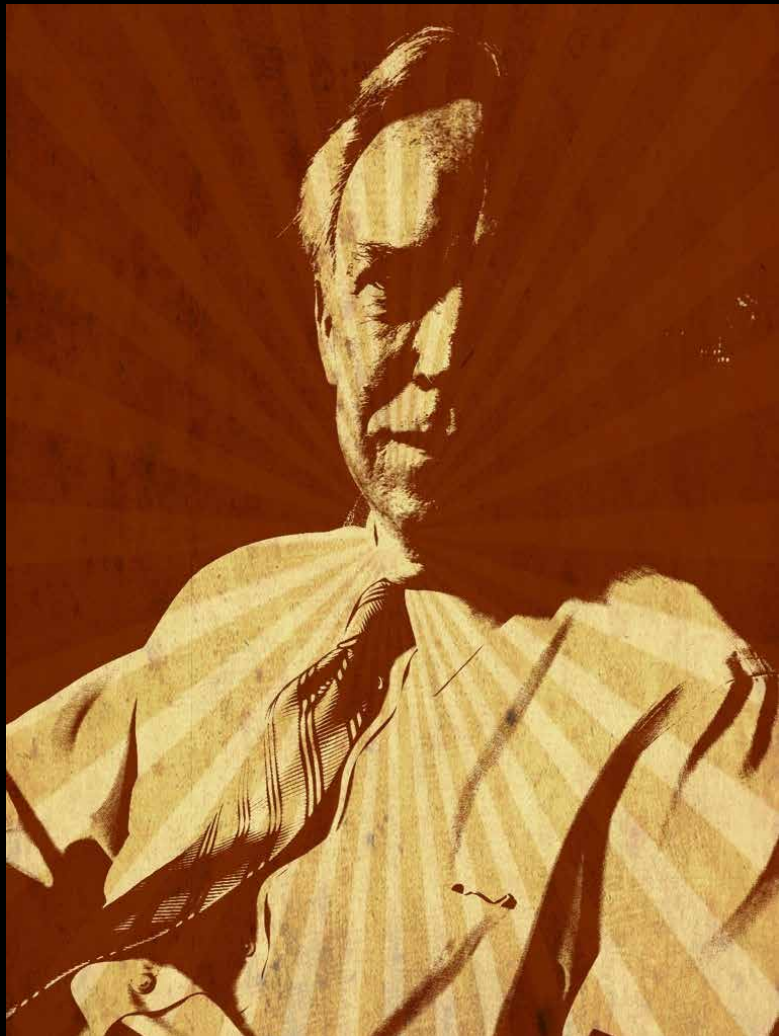
FROM:
LAURA SHAY

Making up songs on the spur of the moment about anyone! Here he is with Billy's guitar, making up a Billy Shay song that was obviously quite a hit.

RENAISSANCE MAN



Jerald Welch: Bill Hyche is a Renaissance Man.

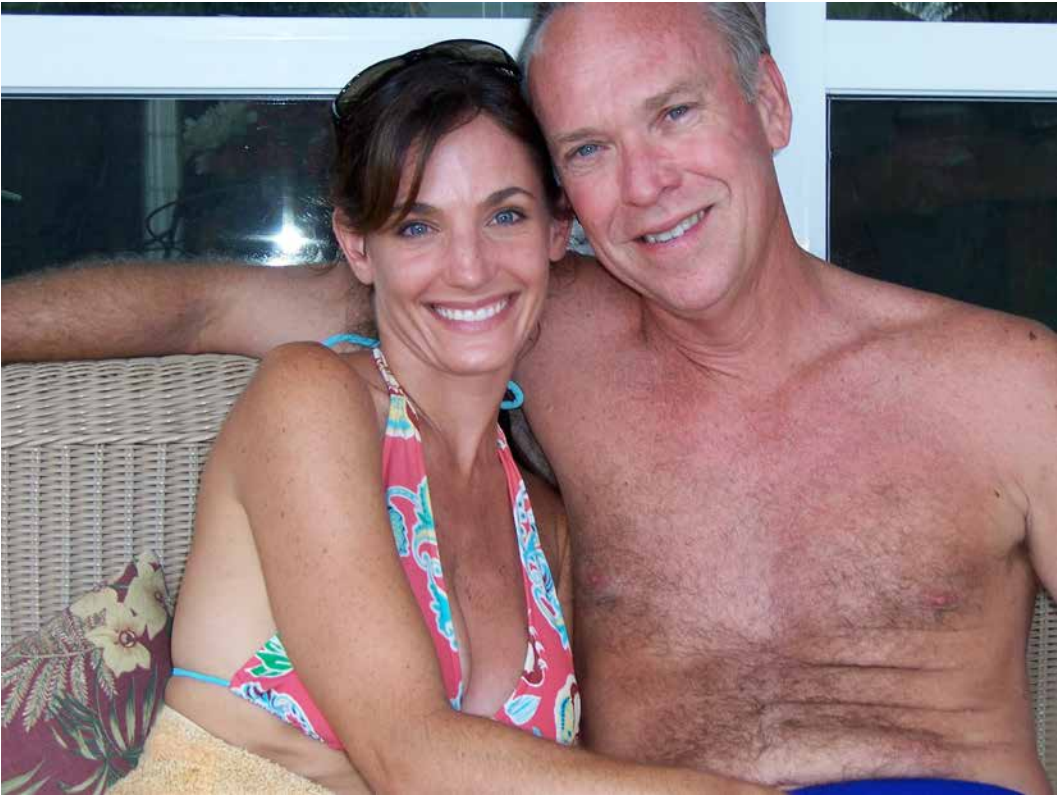


Laura Shay: Ageless and timeless.

FROM:
JERALD WELCH

Spending 24 hours straight with Bill on a trip to Houston and back from Austin, I was inundated with no less than 22 business ideas. He is a serial entrepreneur, speaker, artist, author, and wise counsel to both friends, family, and business colleagues. Bill's generosity has no agenda other than giving to other human beings. Tears come as quickly as laughter from this husband, father, grandfather and friend. Bill is a paradox, being a man of his times, mixed with the boundless vision to embrace the present, peering around corners to the future.

FROM:
MISTY WATKINS



Every time I see Bill he is beaming with that great smile. He has an incredible gift of making you feel like the most important, most beautiful person in the room. I'm not sure I have ever heard a negative word spoken from his mouth. He truly has a gift of joy and encouragement, and is an incredible motivator... and a ladies' man.

FROM:
JOHN HOWARD

Bill is a joy to know. An open-minded, imaginative, creative business person. An artist, composer, entrepreneur, and master salesperson. Bill may be 70, but he's 20 in spirit. Like many great renaissance men, Bill is fun, crazy, and a little wild. He's a real Texan, a risk-taker, and a lover of life. You can't hold Bill down, but you wouldn't want to. People like Bill make our planet a more enjoyable, interesting place to live. Bill cares about his family; he gives back to his community. His ideas don't always pan out, but he's always enjoying himself in the process of living life. Since father time is hunting all of us, we would do well to learn from how Bill lives. One day we will wish we too had lived as authentically as the example he sets. He'll go down in a ball of flames, having left it all on the field. Bill. Renaissance man. An example of the spirited life.

BILL TAUGHT ME...



I CAN'T CONTROL THE WIND,
BUT I CAN DIRECT THE SAIL.

Lana King

BILL TAUGHT ME THAT YOU PLAY TO WIN,
BUT THAT IT IS ALSO IMPORTANT TO HAVE
THE BOCCE BALLS DRIFT TOWARD THE GIRL
IN THE VERY SKIMPY BIKINI.

Tom Bettes





BILL TAUGHT ME THAT GOOD FRIENDS ARE
WORTH THEIR WEIGHT IN GOLD. WHAT
GREAT TIMES WE HAVE SHARED WITH OUR
WIVES AND OTHER GOOD FRIENDS!

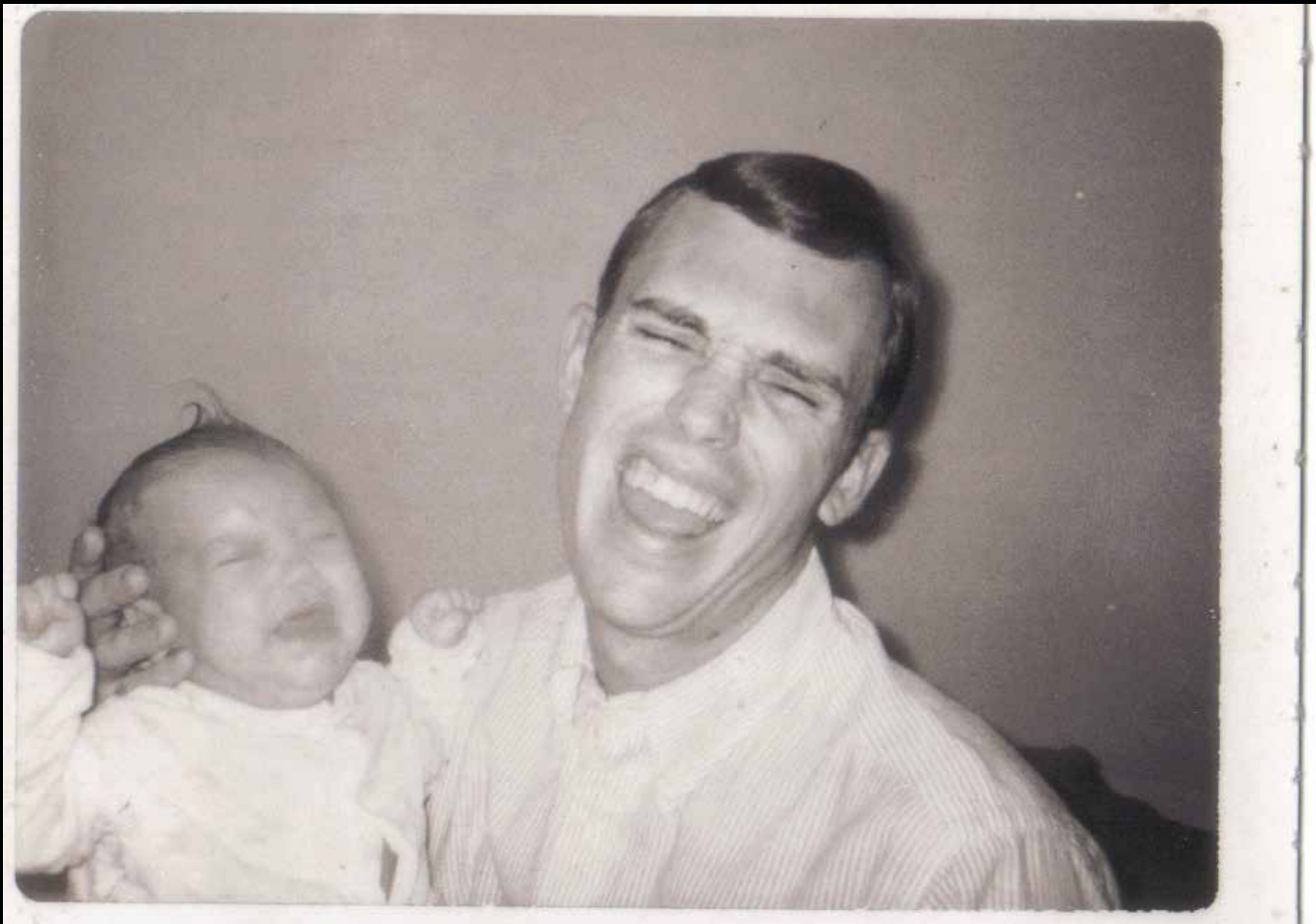
BILL TAUGHT ME THAT YOU CAN ALWAYS
ORDER MORE. ESPECIALLY DESSERT.
AND WINE.

Sara Mackie Shull

FROM:
CAMREN KING

Grandad taught me how to do a plethora of extremely useful and quirky things. He taught me how to make bird calls with nothing more than a blade of grass and my hands, and he taught me how to fish, grill, and make fires. He taught me how to be a salesman and an entrepreneur. He taught me how to always be caring and see the best in people. He taught me how to think and express myself rationally.

BEST DAD IN THE WORLD



FROM:

LAURA SHAY

It's hard to put down into words the impact my father has had on my life. I feel inept at even attempting it. What do you say about someone who has been a part of your life, literally every day of it? Never more than a phone call away. Never going more than a few days without talking or seeing each other. Always the first one I call - sad about a breakup as a teenager, excited about being chosen for a team, bursting with a new idea and dying to tell someone, indecisive about any number of things and needing advice, broke and feeling stupid and vulnerable, in love and on cloud 9....and I could go on and on. He is infinitely available to me.

My father has this perfect way of always making me feel like I am the most important thing whenever I reach out to him - regardless of what I'm interrupting or where he is. He will say, "I'm in a business meeting, but if you need something I will step away - you're the priority."

And he's so proud of me! Every time he introduces me to anyone, including the Texas Governor - Rick Perry, he says, "This is my daughter, Laura. Isn't she beautiful?" And if you've been introduced to me by Bill, you'll know that to be true.

I truly have the best father in the world. No girl or woman has ever been more loved, more cherished, more challenged, more supported, and more known by a father than I have. There is no one I can compare him to, and there is no one in the history of time that I would trade him for. I love him beyond words and know that I've been given a rare and beautiful gift to have him as a father.



Laura Shay: I look at this picture and am not surprised how much grief their parents gave them about getting married and starting a family. They look like they are 15 years old - tops! I bet they never could have imagined, standing there, what life would look like standing here. Thanks for bringing me into the world, Mom and Dad!!



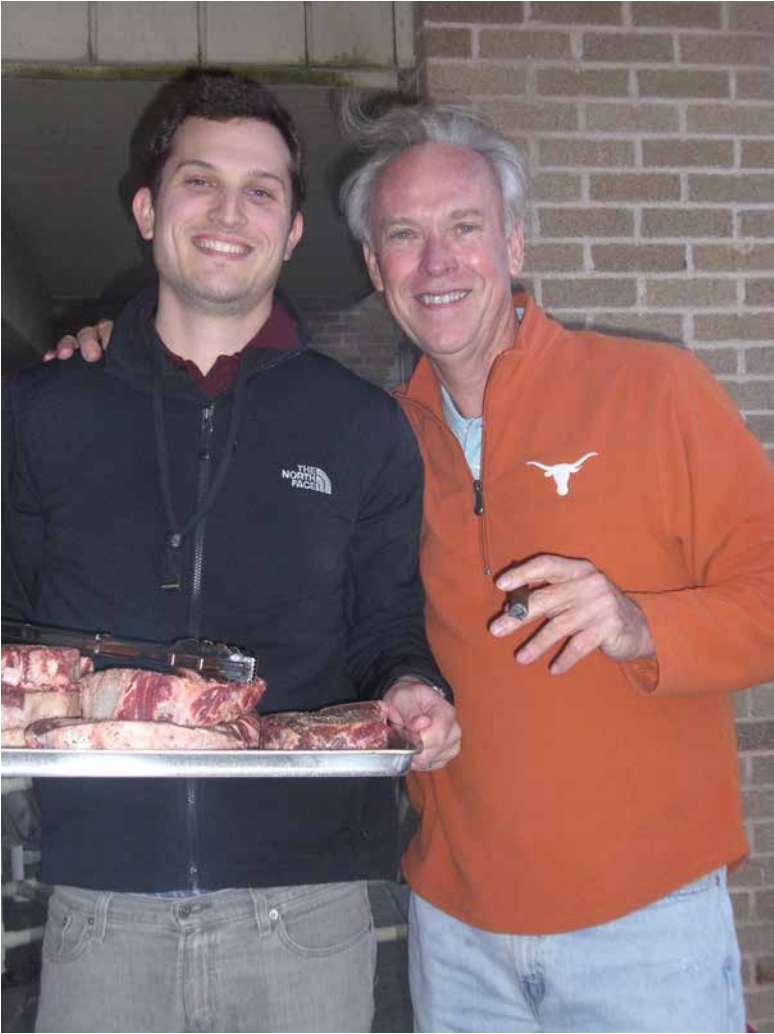
UNCLE BILL

FROM:
CODY CORTEZ

Bill is my mother's brother, my uncle. When I think back over my life, I remember him as a fun, up-for-anything, happy guy. He's sustained a long marriage with a crazy woman who he still madly loves, and his daughters are successful, loving women. That in itself is the success of a man. He isn't afraid to fail, which I really admire. He's a true entrepreneur.

My memories include his voice, his laugh, his cough, and the way he eats. He's always made me feel important. I love having a beer with him or smoking a cigar at night along the water at South Padre.

Happy birthday, Uncle Bill.



Laura Shay: Couldn't resist posting this one! Cody and his Uncle Bill about to make some amazing steaks at the beach - good times!

FROM:
CHRISTY HYCHE



Hey Uncle Bill, I've had writer's block about what to say and the pressure is on, but all I need to say is I love you, and I love our family. Happiest of birthdays to you!

FROM:
LISA HYCHE

I haven't known Bill as long as some, but I count myself lucky to have married into such a loving, close family as the Hyche family. Bill exemplifies what family is all about, and the beautiful family that he and Lenora have created is such an inspiration. They are also genuinely fun people to be with. You don't get to pick your family, but I would choose them as friends in a heartbeat! Happy birthday, Bill; we love you!

FROM:
SHEILA ELLIOTT

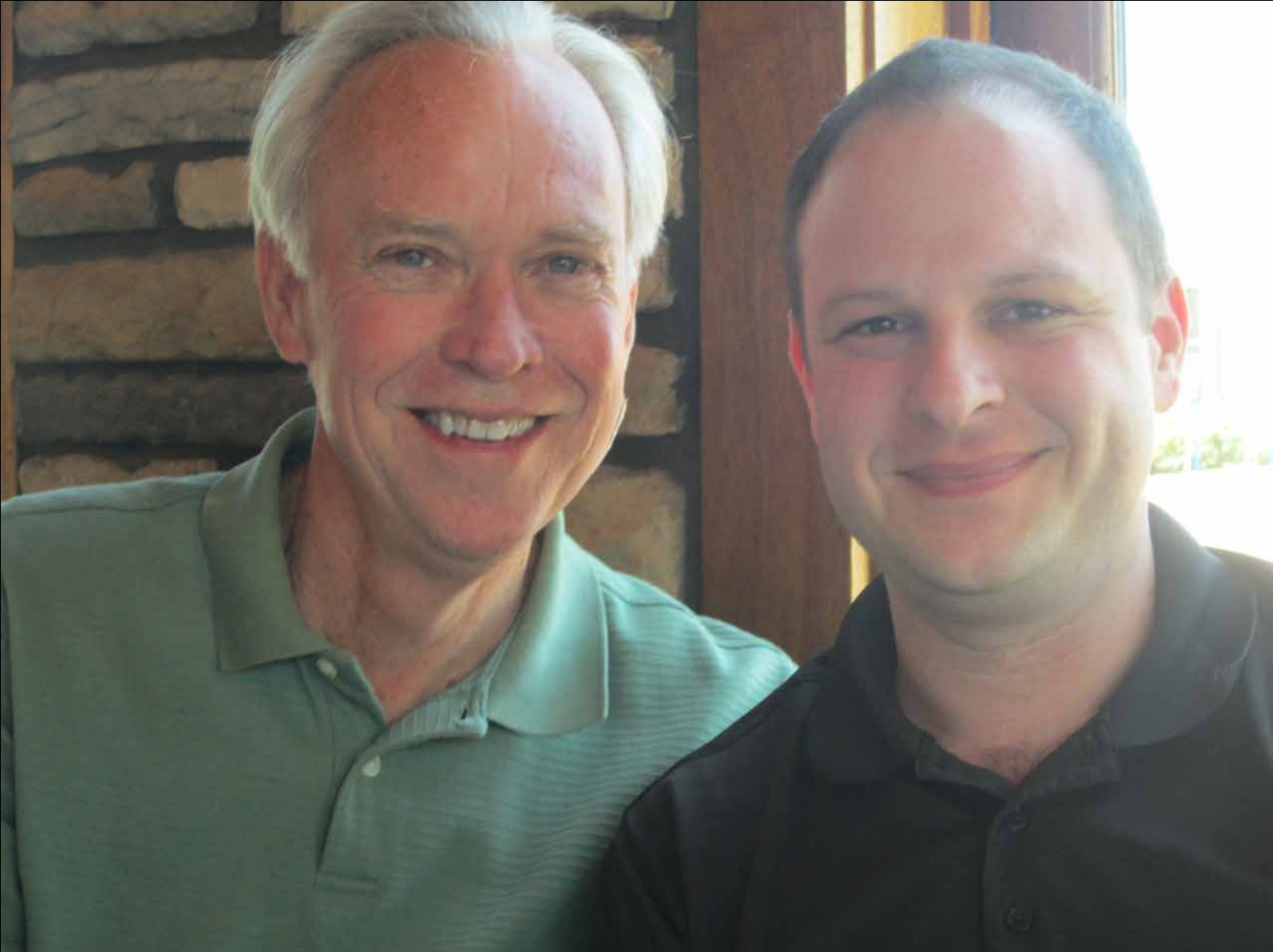
My dear Uncle Bill! Happy birthday to you. I wish I could be there to celebrate with you. I want you to know that you mean the world to me. Most of my fondest childhood memories are of those I got to spend at Aunt Lenora's and Uncle Bill's house. You running around in extremely short shorts!

FROM:
MICHAEL HYCHE

My uncle Bill was always larger than life. His natural way with people and charm were fascinating to me with my introverted tendencies. His ability to uncover common ground with anyone and proceed to make them feel special is unique. Everyone who meets him is uplifted by the interaction and know they have met someone special. Over the years his increased energy devoted to mentorship has touched many. I have been a beneficiary of his mentorship, and it has been transformative for me in my professional and personal life.

Happy Birthday, Uncle Bill; I can't thank you enough for your leadership and impact on everyone who has been fortunate enough to know you.

Love, Michael Hyche



Michael Hyche

GRANDAD



FROM:
DANIEL SHAY

I think something that I take for granted sometimes is how grand our Grandad really is. Whether being completely unsupervised and buying five ducks as a child, or writing a beautiful piece of music taken directly from a dream he had, he is known to do amazing things, even if they're a little bit crazy. I could write all day about the awesome things he has done (that would likely sound completely unbelievable had they come from anyone other than him), but I think the most amazing things about my Grandad are the things he taught us boys: You can always find a bright side to a situation; do whatever you set your mind to; try to learn from every situation; always strive to be a better person; and most importantly, to love everyone. What's most amazing is he taught us this through his actions, not his words. My grandad is an artist, a writer, a thinker, and a doer, but above all else he's a teacher, and I can never thank him enough for everything he's taught me.

FROM:
BILLY SHAY

I'd like to tell you my 3 favorite things about Grandad. First, he is an artist. This is really fun because he does it with all of us - especially his abstract paintings. It brightens my day up when I get to do this with him, and I always feel like he's enjoying it as much as we are. My second favorite thing about him is that everytime we go to his house and it's nice outside, he comes out and throws a frisbee or football with us. I like that he takes the time out to do this with us and that he never says he's too busy or doesn't feel like it. If it's not football or frisbee, and if there is water in the lake, he takes us fishing down behind his house. The first time we went fishing and caught a fish was the first time I ever tried eating fish - and I liked it!

My third favorite thing about Grandad are the adventures he takes me on. We went to Enchanted Rock - just the two of us. We parked somewhere off to the side, and saw some arrow signs and ended up accidentally climbing up the wrong side and even though the person told us not to put our hands in holes because of snakes, we did it anyway. It was really steep and no one else was around. We made it up together and we didn't get bitten! We got to the top and we were so excited - then we thought - um...how do we get down? Some people pointed us to a really flat trail and said, "Climb down the same way you climbed up." And that's when we realized we had

BILLY SHAY



gone the wrong way - the climb down wasn't nearly as fun as the climb up. He also took me to the Alamo and he and I are going to ride on a train together - he promised and I know he will.

Other things I think are cool about Grandad are: he was almost in the war, although I'm glad he wasn't; that he was a dog person and he transformed into a cat person; he likes to run and one time he took me on a run at Townlake for 3 miles; that he's an author and he wrote books for me; that he's an entrepreneur; that I was named after him - he was Billy when he was my age, too. He's the best grandad ever and I'm lucky that he's my grandad.



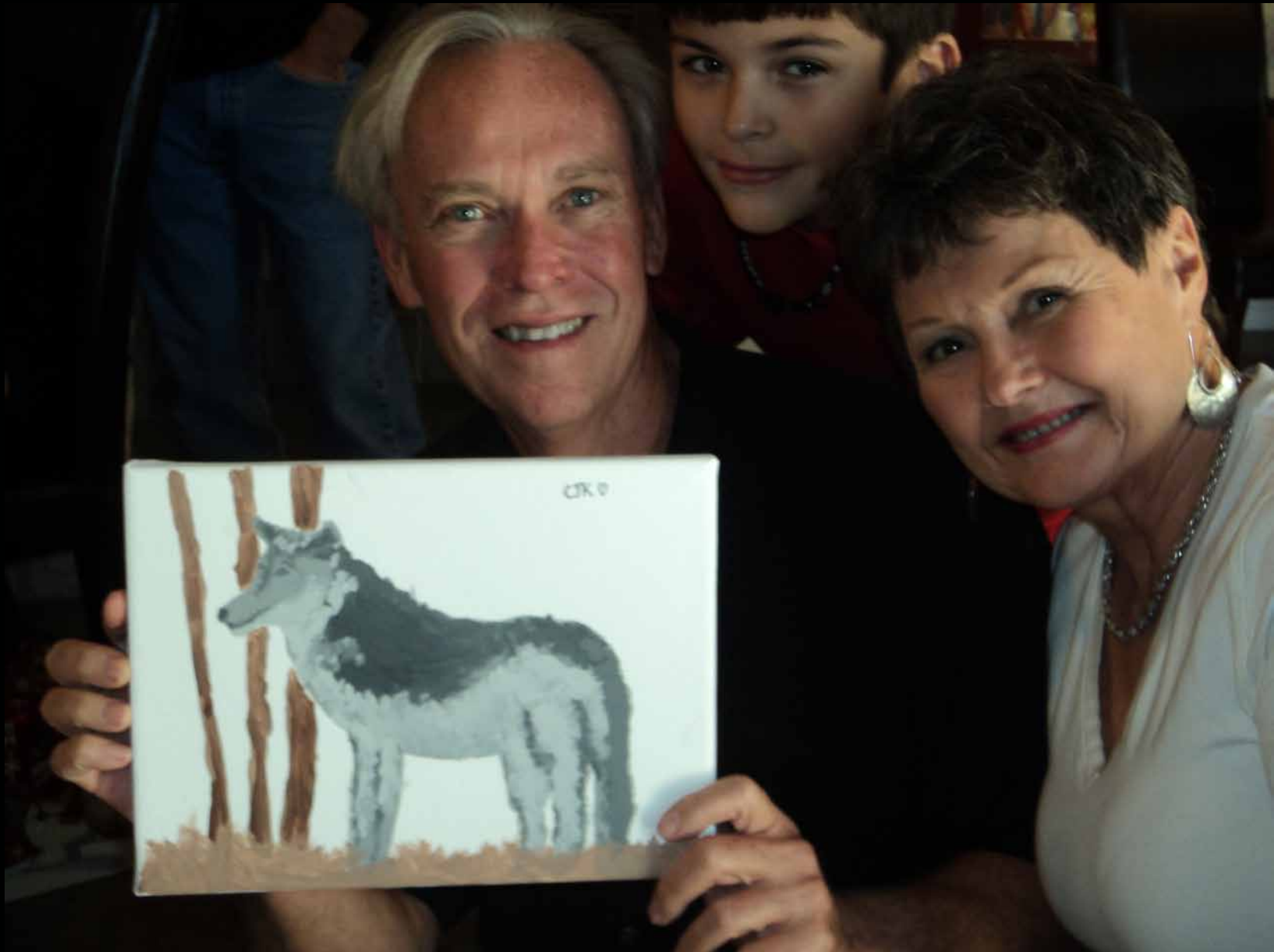
Daniel Shay: We've done all kinds of crazy things in Grandad's backyard - shooting things and blowing up things are my favorite.



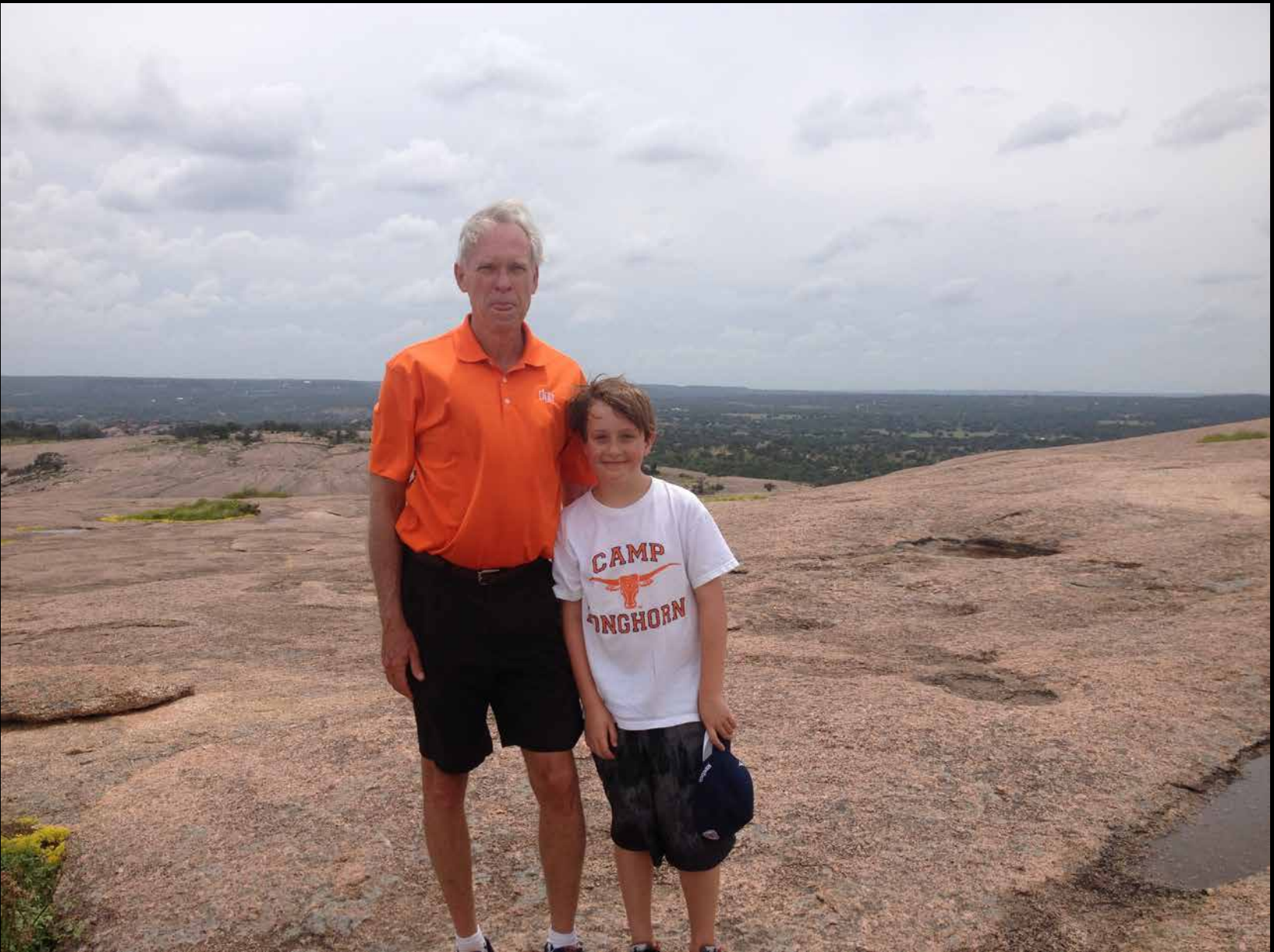
Daniel Shay: One thing that Corbin and I have in common with Grandad is that he sings - and he sang in choir when he was our age. He always attends every choir concert and always looks so proud of us and proud to be our grandad.



Billy Shay: Grandad really, really likes his cats.



Laura Shay: Painting with Corbin



Billy Shay: This is me and Grandad at Enchanted Rock!



Daniel Shay: Family is really important to my grandad. He loved his father and took us to the memorial where his dad's name is engraved.



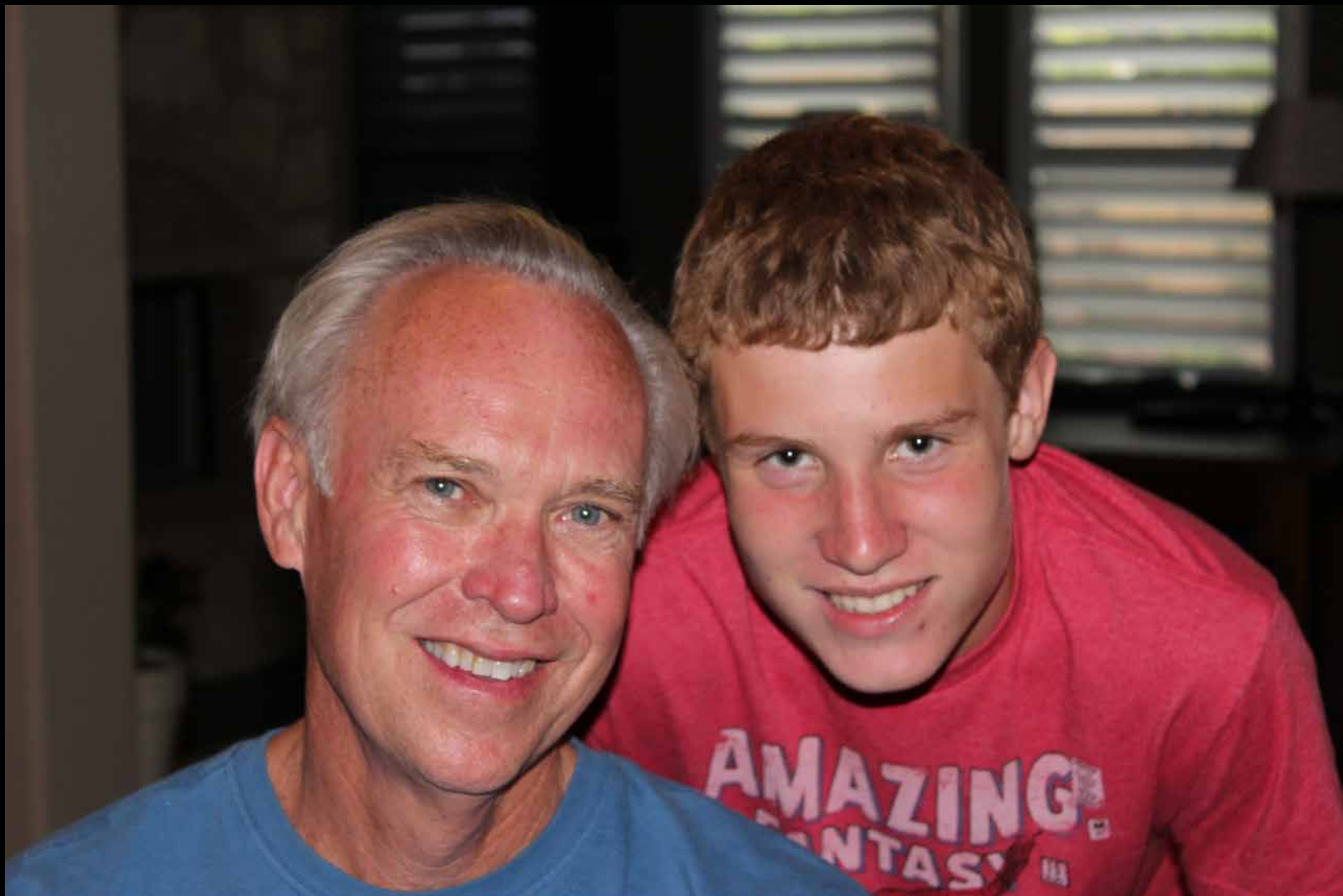
Daniel Shay: This is Grandad making pumpkins with us. He never says "no" whenever we ask him to do things with us.



Daniel Shay: Grandad has always been supportive of us and involved with us. He attends every event he can - football games, choir concerts, Grandparent's Day - and when we needed volunteers to come and read to the class, he was there. He is always close by and is always there when we need him.



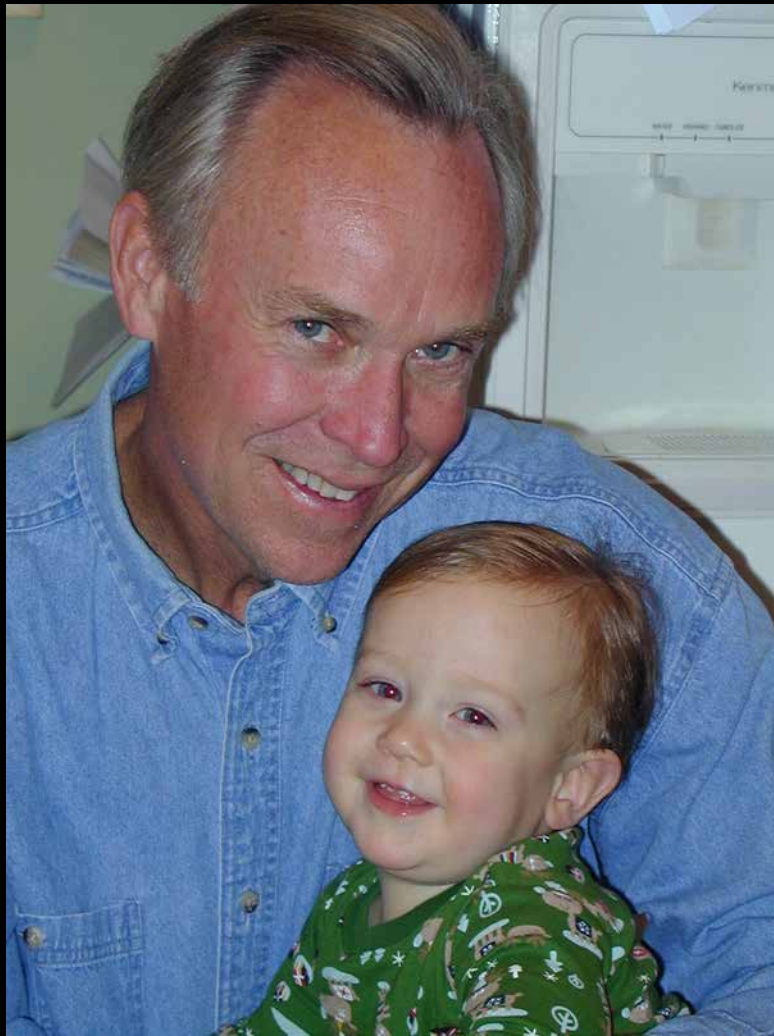
Billy Shay: Hanging out with my grandad.



FROM:

MICHAEL SHAY, JR.

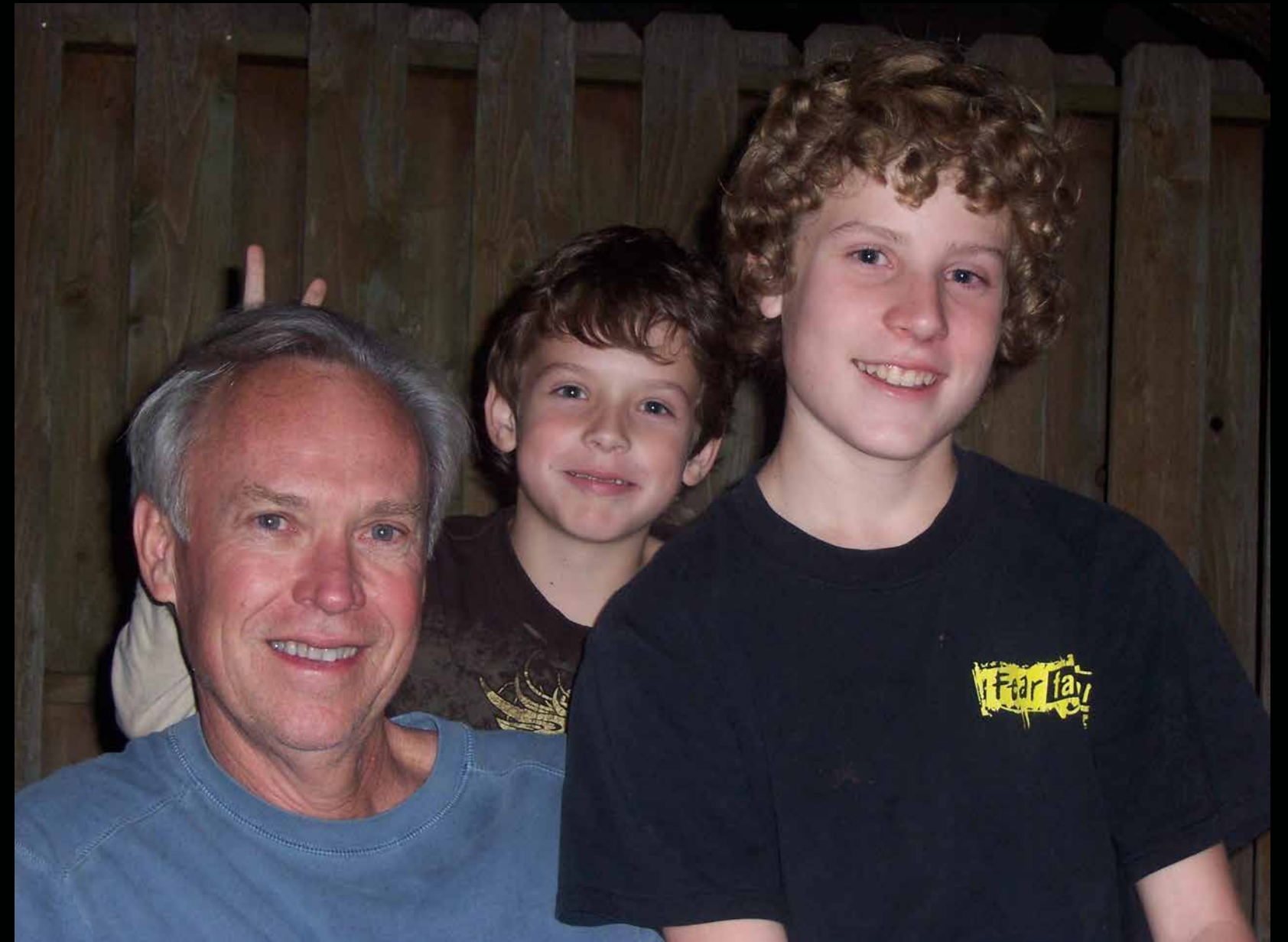
It's hard to put into words the impact my grandad has had in my life. I can't imagine being without him - mainly because from the second I was born, he was there loving and encouraging me unconditionally. No matter what I chose to pursue - soccer, football, guitar, writing, running - he would show up, clap louder than anyone (except maybe Pama), and tell me how amazing and perfect and wonderful I am. Even when I lost or came in last, I never felt like it mattered to him - he thought I was incredible. When I played football he used to say, "Michael Shay! Number 33 on the field, Number 1 in my heart!" Really, really loudly he'd say that. It was a little embarrassing - until I saw the pride in his eyes - then I just felt lucky. And like I was #1. One of the things I appreciate most about my grandad is the way he listens. Sometimes it's hard for me to explain how I feel or what's going on with me, and when I'm with him, he's patient and he really, really listens. He's never quick to give advice - mainly he wants to make sure that I'm OK and that I know I'm loved. And when he gives advice, it's always thoughtful and it's for me - not for him or my parents - but for me. To say that I'm lucky to have him in my life would be the biggest understatement of all time - but I'm not sure how else to say it. I'm the luckiest grandson in the world. Happy Birthday, Grandad. I love you.



Laura Shay: I couldn't be luckier to have this man as a grandad to my sons!



Laura Shay: My dad passed along a love of running to me... and infected all my boys with it! OK... so they don't look so grateful and full of running fervor. But that was just the beginning - they are runners now! I couldn't be more proud and grateful... one runner to another. Love you, Daddy.



Michael Shay, Jr.: Me and Daniel and Grandad - we love him and he loves us. We are so lucky.



Camren King: THE CANNON!!! How many kids get to tell their friends that they spent their weekend at their grandad's house shooting lemons 50 feet in the air out of a homemade cannon? That's right... only five of them. The five luckiest kids in the world.



Jeffrey King: Bill is a wonderful grandfather to my two sons.

MY FAVORITE THING
ABOUT BILL IS...



FROM:

SARA MACKIE SHULL

My favorite thing about Bill is how he makes everyone around him feel. He has this knack of making whomever he is talking to feel special. Especially women. Even when you know it isn't true, when he tells you how beautiful you are, how smart you are, how whatever you are (especially when introducing you to someone), it is the greatest feeling in the world. And it makes you live into his description and boosts your spirits and your self-esteem. It is a lovely way to be in the world, and it's simply the way Bill is.

My other favorite thing about Bill is his mind. It is never still, but is always thinking, and questioning and dreaming. His true entrepreneurial spirit and exploring mind are constantly asking "what if's" and "have you ever thought about this?" and "what do you think about trying that?" Talking with him for hours during the almost 28 years we've been friends has been one of the joys of my life.

FROM:
ANNA KATE STANLEY

He has a way with people! Bill always made me feel special, like I was one of the adults (even before I was), rather than just his friends' daughter. I appreciated that he included me in the "adult" conversations, not worrying about offending me.

FROM:
MARLENE CLARK

His laugh. And his smile. Wait - also his big heart. As well as his open mind...and appetite for all of life... and love of all of God's creatures, human and otherwise. Happy Seven-O!

FROM:
KEN WATKINS



Picture me running through a flowering Alpine meadow singing this to the music of Julie Andrew's famous Sound of Music hit, "These Are A Few Of My Favorite Things"!

*To us just like Heaven's bread they called manna;
He brought us Lenora, Laura and Lana;
Guided them all to great heights with their wings;
These are a few of my favorite things (about Bill!).*

*Whether in books or in songs or in person;
He mentors like no other I'm certain;
The right moment for wisdom to others it rings;
These are a few of my favorite things (about Bill!).*

*He can turn on and off his social filter;
Unless of course he spies a very hot looker;
Much like me he likes bikinis with strings;
These are a few of my favorite things (about Bill!).*

*(Chorus)
When my heart aches, when the Horns lose, when I'm feeling sad;
Bill reminds me of the beauty of life, and then I don't feel, so bad.*

I love you, Bill.

FAMILY



FROM:
BECKY HYCHE CORTEZ

Brother Bill - I am so grateful for our family, so grateful to call you my brother, but above all, so grateful to have you as a friend. Have a spectacular birthday! Love you too much, Becky



FROM:

BECKY HYCHE CORTEZ

Bill, I wanted to say the same thing that Becky said but she wouldn't let me. She wants me to be serious. I will be back in an hour. I need to think.

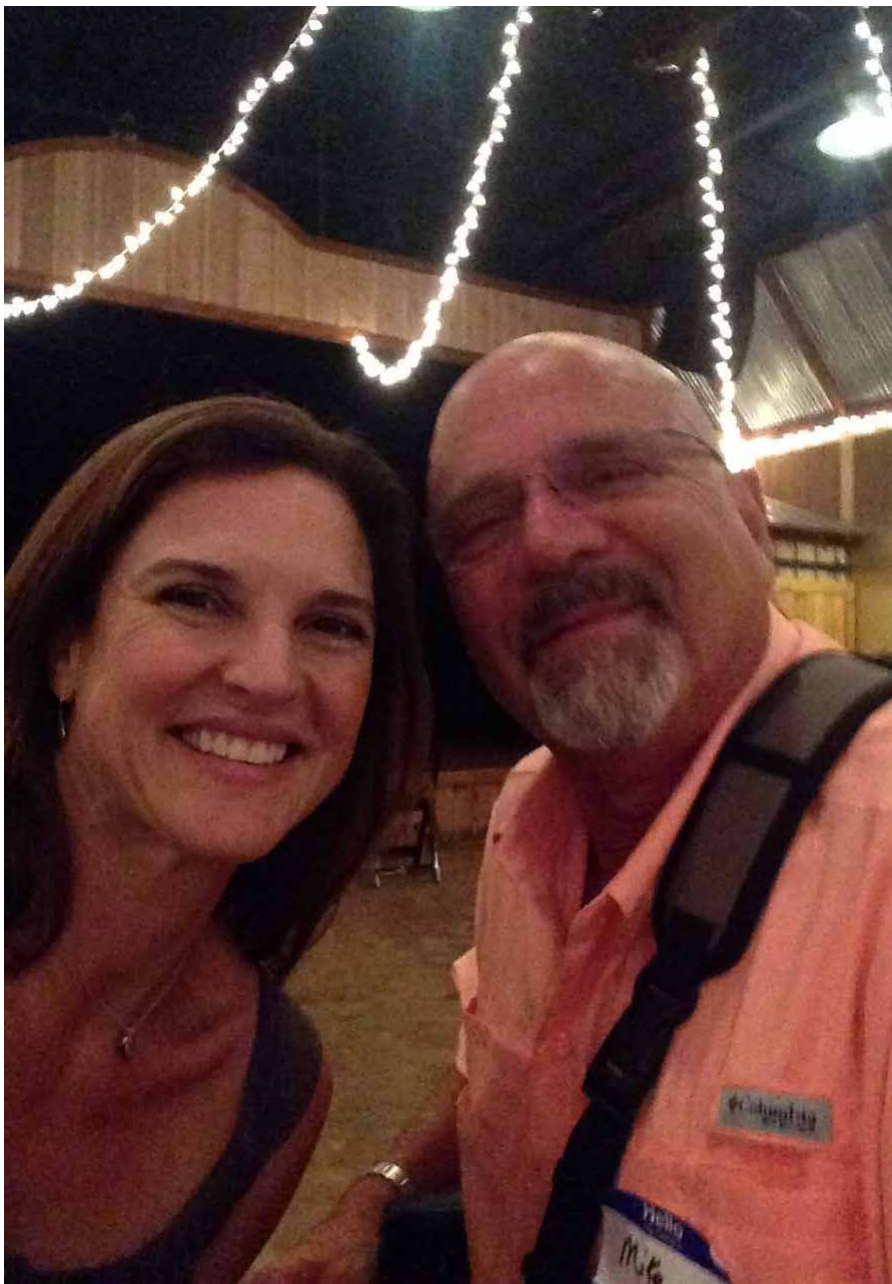
Okay. I'm back. You have been my brother-in-law for 34 years now and I know without a doubt I am your favorite. We have shared many things throughout the years. I'm pausing again. I can't think of anything.

Okay. I'm back. You are and will always be older than me and I appreciate that. I see you as an older brother and will always look up to you sometimes.

Someone once said that close is about as good as almost. I just made that up during my pause.

I truly think of you as a brother, Bill. I brag about you a lot in all of your accomplishments. You know I love you. I hope we have many more years to share as brothers. Keep up the good work in reaching your goals. You have been a Spartan.

Love ya, dude!



FROM:
MIKE SIEGEL

Bill is my brother in-law and a man that is always there to teach others important life lessons. Like... I always thought peanut butter was for eating, but he showed me it has other uses. And, when on the lake, life jackets are not to be overlooked in boats. They make good seats to sit in the water so you can more easily drink and stay afloat. Happy Birthday, Bill! I love being part of your family!

FROM:
HELEN HYCHE

You do not get a choice in family members because they are truly a gift given to you. As a personality that thrives on order and control, I learned from Bill to every so often just relax and breathe and let life happen.

Thanks, Bill! Happiest of birthdays.



Mike Hyche: A lasting memory created while enjoying time at South Padre with my big brother, Billy.



FROM:
LINDA EYEINGTON

Jurgen Wasser and Bill Hyche were the best of friends in high school and college. In 1967, my twin sister Lenora started dating Bill and I started dating Jurgen. After a couple of years, Lenora married Bill and I married Jurgen - a couple of years later, both Lenora and I had baby girls.

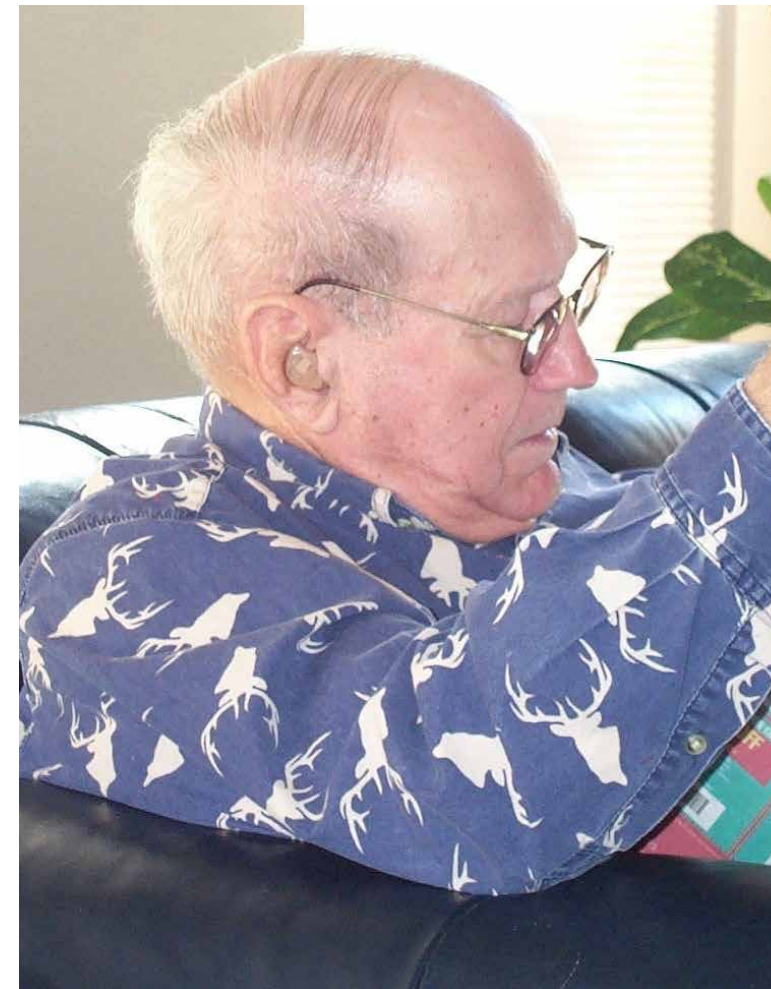
Not long after the babies were born, Jurgen and I were in a car accident and Jurgen was killed. Bill was a great guy after the accident. He didn't make me feel guilty that I survived. I became conscious after 21 days of being unconscious from the wreck. Bill made me realize that he still loved me as a sister-in-law. He helped me through some rough times after I understood what had happened & I needed loved ones and support.

Thank you for your love and support, and Happy Birthday - I love you, Bill!



FROM:
IRENE PETTY

I have four daughters and love all my sons-in-law. However, Bill stands out for me in many ways. He has always told me how pretty I am, even now. He compliments me and always says how nice I look. I met him as a young “barefoot beach boy” and he has grown into a kindhearted, loving and wise man who loves my daughter immensely. He has a special place in my heart. I love you, Bill! Happy 70th Birthday!



FROM:
WHEELER PETTY

Bill Hyche is my Beach Boy son-in-law: I remember when he wrote a poem about “the cow jumped over the moon.” He is always writing funny poems. A real talent of his. And his artistic abilities are really great. Remember the Christmas Nativity mural you painted on your dining room wall of your rent house in Houston? Really pretty but it wouldn’t cover up. It kept bleeding through and was still on the wall when you moved! And then there was your first dog when you got married - Charlie Brown. Great dog but didn’t like being fenced in. He ate a hole through the back door of your apartment in Houston when you left him outside one day. Yes, we have lots of memories, and I love each and every one of them.

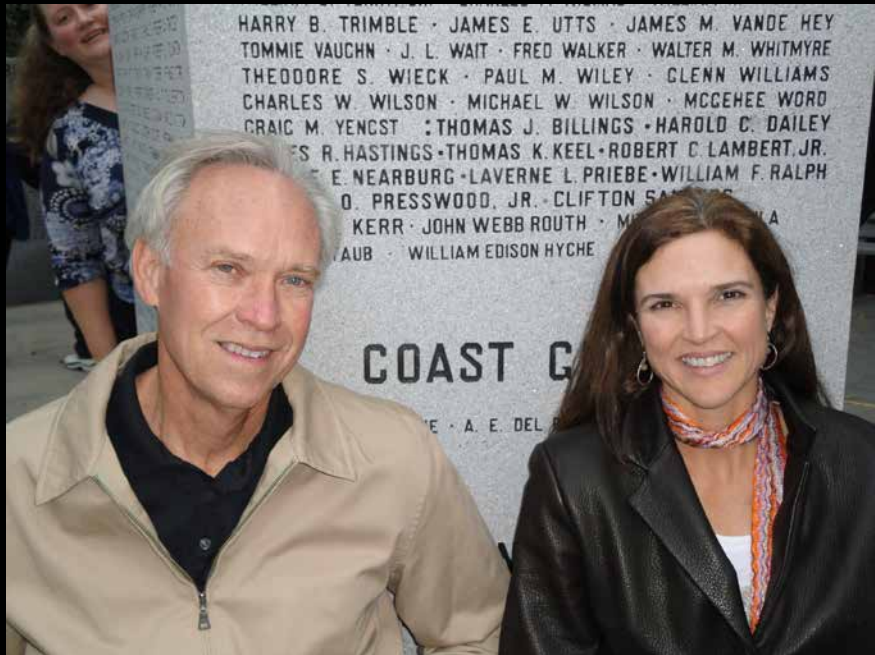
Happy Birthday, Bill - I love you.

A GREAT SON



FROM:
LAURA SHAY

One of the amazing things about my dad, Bill Hyche, was his love, devotion, respect, and admiration for his parents. He displayed this when he was around them and when he wasn't, in the way he took care of them, in the way he listened to them, in the way he talked to others about them. I hope that my children love me the way my dad loved - and still loves - his mother.



Laura Shay: Celebrating and remembering William Edison Hyche - Bill's dad, known to all of us as Ed. Thanks, Ed, for giving us this most amazing gift - your son.



Lana King: ...The way Ed is looking at his son says it all... I love you, son - Thank you, thank you.



Lana King: Great photo of Dad and his parents - Ed and Gigi!

“AND THIS IS MY BEAUTIFUL
DAUGHTER...”

FROM:
MONTENA LACY

I first met Bill at a FOP meeting. He briefly shared how, out of his heartfelt efforts to impart “father’s wisdom” to his grandchildren, he had compiled a book. He hoped that this book would be used as a bridge to create goodwill between police and young people, while inspiring and guiding those who might not have a ‘father figure’ in their lives. I remember as he spoke that my heart longed to have had a father just like him. I imagined for a moment what my life might have been like... the things I might have done differently... the choices I surely would not have made. To have had such a role model! Oh, I could feel my heart start to swell. And then, he went on to announce...” This is my lovely daughter - isn’t she beautiful?” I thought I was going to burst into tears (well, I actually may have). In my wildest dreams I couldn’t imagine what that must be like. To have a loving and wise father who introduces you like that... who is so proud of you...who thinks you are beautiful and is happy to tell the world. The Hyche girls may think that it is just the way dads are because that is their “normal.” However, Bill is anything but a “normal dad.” I know there are many wonderful dads out there, but I don’t know of any who are as compassionate, transparent, wise and sincere. I am proud to know him and would be happy to introduce him as, “This is the dad I wish I had - isn’t he beautiful?”



FROM:
LAURA SHAY

The way my father introduces me - from before I have memories, all through childhood and the awkward teen years, throughout high school and college, and into adulthood - “This is my daughter, Laura. Isn’t she beautiful?” And to know in my heart that he meant it, every time. And to know at the core of who I am that my father was proud of me and loved me and thought of me as beautiful - I can’t imagine a better gift. So simple, and yet those 3 words were enough to carry me during those times we all have - times of doubt and fear and failure and uncertainty. To know that no matter what I did, no matter where I was, I was loved and thought of as “beautiful.” There are really no words that adequately explain what that means to a daughter. Daddy - thank you! Thank you for who you are and who I get to be with you - beautiful. Oh! And this is my sister, Lana - isn’t she BEAUTIFUL?!

FROM:
JERALD WELCH

Bill introduced me to one of his beautiful daughters, Laura. I haven't been apart from her since. Of course, one day, I decided to turn the tables on him and said, "Bill, this is Laura, your daughter, isn't she beautiful and amazing?" Bill said, "Yes, she is, but you should meet my other daughter." Touché, Bill, and yes, I have met your other daughter. They are both truly amazing and beautiful.



FROM:
CINDY VILLANUEVA-ALLEN

After a belt exam, I'm usually taking photos of kids with their parents. It was a real joy to have a dad (and mom!) who were supporting an adult student. And this has continued for seven years, as Laura has excelled in martial arts!

WHERE DOES THE TIME GO...



Angel Sustaeta: South Padre Island. Angel and Tina's wedding. We were all there to watch the first of us get married, and of course my dad and mom made the trip. They loved those boys, and those boys loved them.



Lana King: South Padre Island, early 80's... way too much sun with just the right amount of family, laughter, body surfing and walking along the beach. We may be a bit older (and a bit wiser about the sunscreen) but the beach in all of its glory is still ours to share!

Thank you for passing on your love of the ocean, the value of spending time together as a family and enjoying the beauty of it all.

FROM:
KRISTI HYDE

I met Bill right out of college. He hired me to be a B2B account executive for his company, M3. As a naive, young, small town woman I remembered feeling anxious to work for or with someone from the "big city." Bill was able to put me at ease, and make me feel important and that my opinions mattered! He taught me so much - about business (low-hanging fruit), that life is too short, and that your attitude defines who you are and where you end up. He encouraged me constantly and allowed me to grow professionally. He wanted to see me successful. He is truly a one-of-a-kind guy. Bill, thank you for everything, especially the laughter. I will never forget...Cuba Libre, Tumbleweeds, Scratch-Offs and, well, the list goes on and on... I hope you have a wonderful birthday, my friend. I love and miss you much.

FROM:
MIKE WILLMAN

O MG!! Too many fine memories. I do remember trolling back to the dock as the sun set. Me, Dave, Ken, Angel, Laura, Bill and Lenora. Feels like yesterday!

Happy 70th Birthday, Bill!!



FROM:
LAURA SHAY

One of the great lessons I learned from my dad is how to create lasting friendships that impact my life for years and decades. My house was the house everyone wanted to go to, mainly because my parents were so open and welcoming....and had lots of food. And my parents were the ones that everyone wanted to adopt, when we were in college and their parents were far away. My parents made a lasting impact on the friends I made in college, and we've all remained close and stayed in touch, despite busy lives, kids, careers, and relationships. So, here we are, decades later - my parents, me and my family, Ken and his family, Kyle and his family. All the kids together, all of us picking up right where we left off - friends forever.

GONE FISHING



FISHING WITH MY
GRANDAD. IS THERE
ANYTHING BETTER IN
THE WORLD?

REALLY... TRY TO THINK
OF ANYTHING BETTER.
IF YOU THINK YOU CAN,
YOU HAVEN'T GONE
FISHING WITH HIM.

Michael Shay, Jr.

FROM:
CORBIN KING

Fishing. I remember the first time you took me fishing. Well, not really. I don't even remember how old I was or what day it was but I do remember that it was the first time I really connected to you.

I remember walking down the long path through the greenbelt, then crossing the street to go to the little lake, and on the way, right after crossing the street, there would be a tennis court which always seemed empty. On the way to the lake we (the kids) would all pick up sticks and have imaginary sword fights while you were lugging all of our equipment and Oban. Oban, that crazy dog. I don't know why we ever let him off the leash. He would always run off, or get lost, but he always would find his way back to us, home.

When we finally got to the pond, Camren and Michael would always run off to go to the SpongeBob cave with all the spray paint graffiti, and Daniel and I would be right on their heels. I can't really imagine what you ever did when we went off to be hoodlums, you probably smoked one of your cigars and reeled in 20 fish at a time. But anyway, we would finally all get in the same area, on that little muddy beach near the waterfall, and you would open the Styrofoam box full



of dirt and worms and either Camren or you would always cut my worms for me, because I was too scared to kill anything. Of course, you would always put our worms on the hooks. You're a good grandad like that, making sure none of us had any chance to hurt ourselves, or each other.

Then we would throw our lines in the murky water. Honestly we rarely caught anything...Ever.

But I don't think it was about catching fish for you. I think it was about spending time with us - your stupid, silly, crazy, kinda weird, awesome grandkids. Spending time with your family. And I know for me at least, it was always about spending time with you, Grandad.

Happy Birthday,

Corbin King



Laura Shay: Enjoying a glass of wine...after fishing!

FROM:
CAMREN KING

I will never forget the time that Granddad took all of his grandsons airboat fishing in Rockport. The entire trip was a blast right from the start, from the four-hour road trip, to playing cards in the hotel, to exploring the huge boats that were docked, to smoking cigars out on the pier, to the actual fishing! We had two guides and two boats so naturally we split up, with the older boys plus Billy with Granddad, and the younguns with Pama. Granddad, Michael, Billy and I had so much fun out on the crazy airboats that seemed to defy gravity and all of the laws of water. We reached the weight limit of the amount of fish we could catch almost two hours before our time was up, thanks to our amazing guide that spotted a whole school of fish that we tailed all morning. It was a trip I will never forget.

IT BEGAN IN A BAR

FROM:
DAVID M. FOSTER

DAVID M. FOSTER

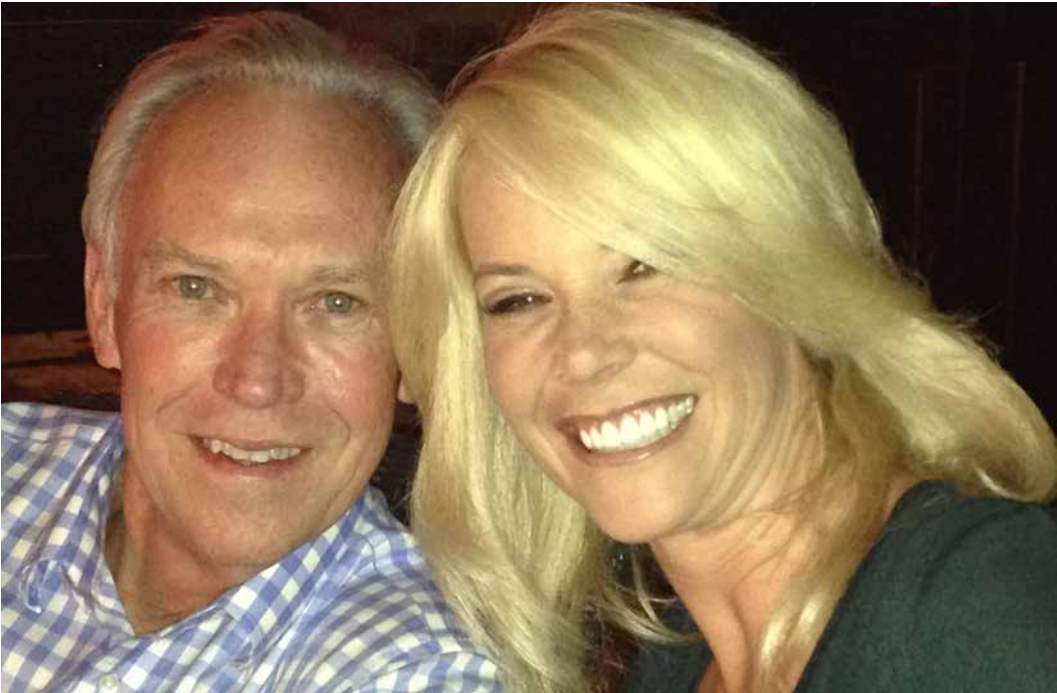
Some of us go to a bar to drink, some to socialize. For Bill it's all about The Interview. I don't recall when it was I saw the pattern emerge that would become one of Bill's defining hallmarks for me: that powerful, creative curiosity that defines so many gifted, peripatetic writers and journalists. And not unlike many of them, he's always found a pleasant retreat in a good bar with lots of people to meet milling around. Preferably, he'd tell you, a gorgeous blonde woman to talk with, sometimes an international marketing executive, other times an author, a policeman or minor tech tycoon.

For Bill, it's always about the comfortable surroundings and trappings of a good bar, nice people, and above all, conversation; especially conversation where that burgeoning curiosity is aroused and only satisfied when he understands something. He begins the interview with that pleasant, mellifluous voice. "So," I asked her after she'd asked me if I was married or not,

"How does a smart, attractive woman like you become a professional matchmaker?" An answer, often one his intended didn't expect would come so easy, is coaxed out, then met by yet another innocuous query. "What would you want me to say about you to one of my single friends?"

"The Oreo approach," he might say, if he were inclined to a more scientific explanation of his interview method - which he's not, "First, I peel away a dark cookie layer ever so gently at the opening salvo of questions, then we talk a lot and it's in the creamy white center they find out I'm pleasant and likeable and that there are many things they want to tell me," he might say. Bill's a long distance runner, a good, calm sturdy heart; he can outlast any bar patron on any stool anywhere, and he might have two drinks all night. You meet a lot of people in a bar with that kind of staying power. And he interviews lots of people.

FROM:
LAURA SHAY



Doesn't it always?? I never fail to have a great time when my dad meets us up at the Steiner Ranch Steakhouse for a drink. He adopts my friends, gives them all "L" names - and promptly forgets their real names, forever calling them whatever name he has assigned. This is my dad and Lola - or Kelly to everyone else that knows her.

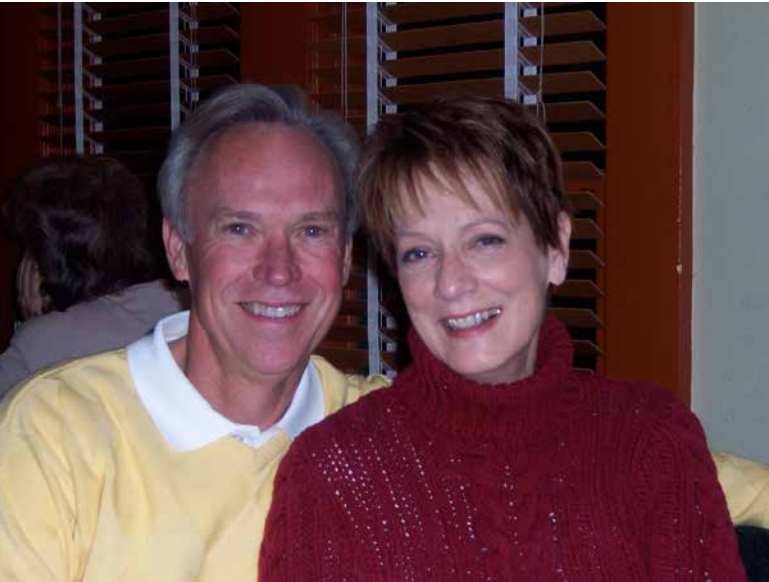
FROM:
SUE ANN FRUGE

OR RATHER ON A PLANE...

Like the finest of whiskeys are filtered through charcoal... Hyche distills his exploration of life, and offers it up in sips to those of us lucky enough to be called "friend." He usually proffers his wisdom in tastings small enough to be fully savored and in the intimacy of some well-appointed bar.

For me, the essence of our fearless leader was revealed, late one afternoon, years ago at Sullivan's. I had asked him to meet and help me sort out some thorny issue du jour. After an hour and half of Bill's various thoughtful questions and observations, I felt 100% better and gushed that... once again... he had been my "guru."

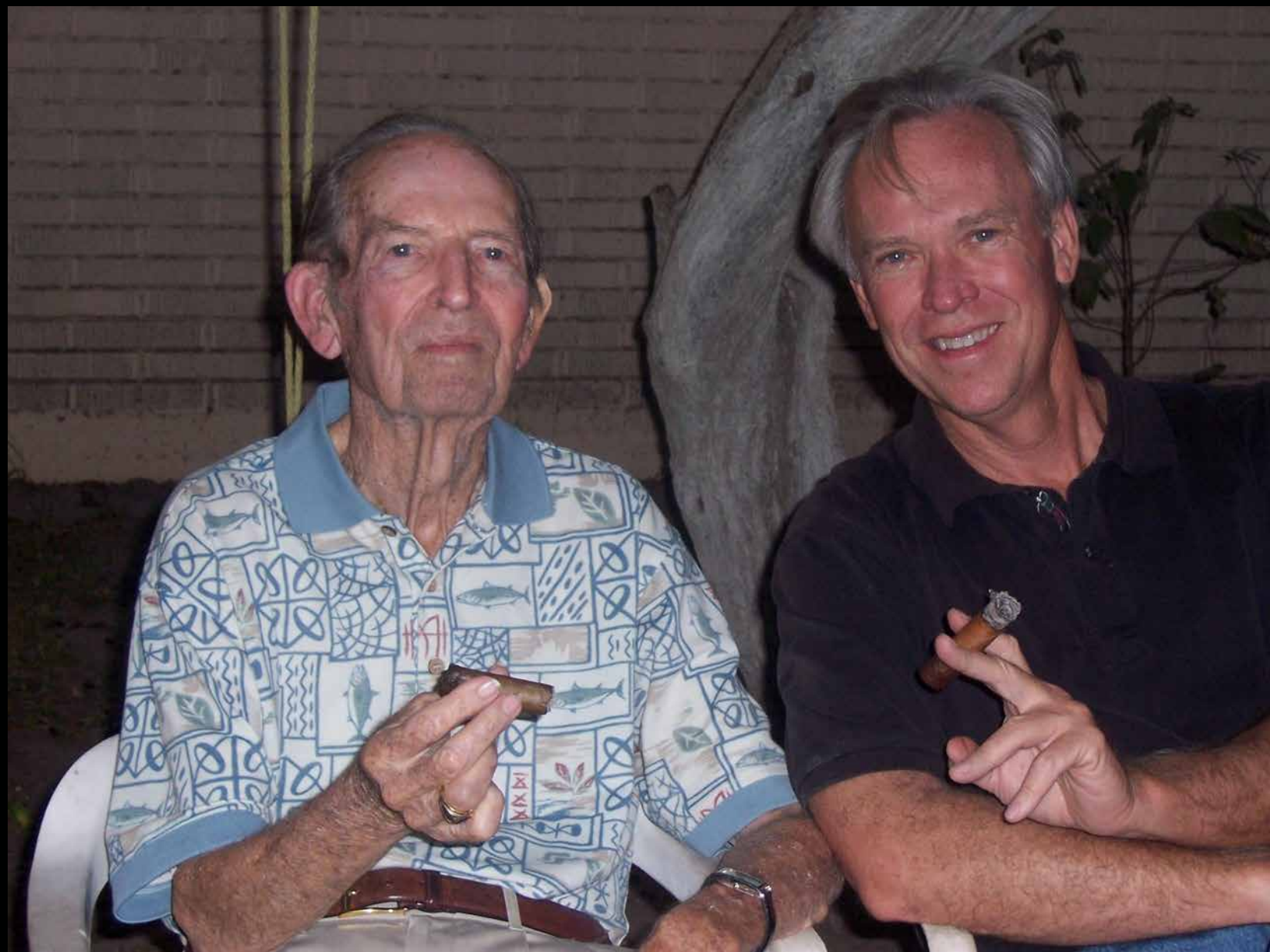
At which point he pushed back from the table, beamed one of his impishly beatific smiles and asked, "You know how to spell that? Gee-U-R-U!"



Emphatically, I realized that to receive the gift of this truly extraordinary man's friendship was to leave his presence feeling... somehow... wiser, kinder, more aware, and fully accepted by the universe. He reminds us how to love ourselves!

Bill, thanks for being my seatmate on that plane 20+ years ago.

FOR THE LOVE OF CIGARS...



FROM:
LAURA SHAY

I think I started smoking cigars with my dad when I was about, oh, 11 or 12. He'd take me to baseball games and we'd get one of everything, then he'd let me puff on his cigar on the way home. Or sitting outside by the fire. Or at the beach. Smoking a cigar....well, it makes me feel like my father's daughter.

FROM:
LENORA HYCHE

It was our first date! Intermission at a movie. (Yes, they used to have them, and you could smoke.) Bill asked me to hold his cigar while he went to restroom and to not let it go out. I had never smoked and certainly didn't know you didn't inhale cigar smoke. I puffed and inhaled - it stayed lit and I turned green!



HAVE I SHOWN YOU A
PICTURE OF MY CAT?



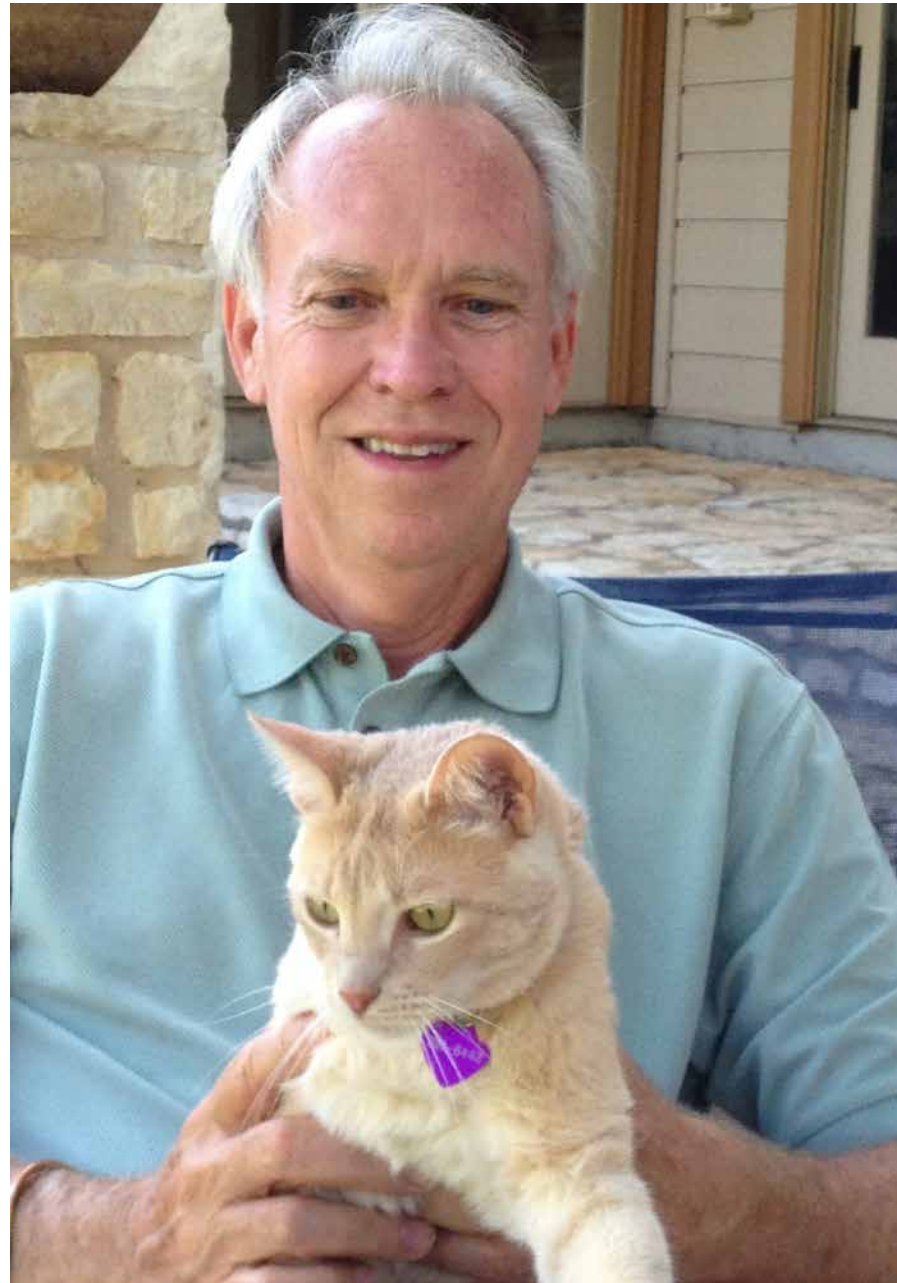
FROM:
LAURA SHAY

T rue story. Bill loves his cats so much that when introduced to a possible business contact, the person said, "Listen, before we get started, I've been told that I should ask you to show me a picture of your cat." My dad didn't flinch or seem remotely disconcerted that this stranger - who he was attempting to do business with - would say that to him. He promptly whipped out his phone and showed multiple pictures of his cats - Lola and Simi. Thank goodness the man didn't ask to see pictures of his family because, as my dad pointed out, he only has so much memory on his phone and just can't fit pictures of my sister and me or his wife on the phone. Just look them up on Facebook. But oh my goodness - did you see THIS picture of Lola??

FROM:
LOLA THE CAT

My daddy loved me special from the very start. I was the first to climb over the gate and get out of our "safe place." Daddy thought I was sooo cute when I did that. But he didn't like cleaning up after me, although he was very patient. I had a special place in his heart and always will. I slept with him at night and curled up in the chair with him every Sunday morning and "helped" him read the New York Times. That was our special time without Mommy around. He was so proud of me that he had a book of pictures made of just me. Well, Oban is in the book, but only as a secondary figure. It's all about me because he loves me so much. Well, I'm gone now and he still misses me. I miss him too. No one ever had a Daddy love their kitty quite as much as he did me. We had a special bond. I loved you, Daddy, and am thankful for the time I had with you. I know I'll always have a place in your heart.

Happy Birthday! Love, Lola



I LOVE YOU...

WHAT A GREAT TIME WE
HAD TOGETHER - THANK
YOU FOR BEING MY BEST
FRIEND.

Oban



ALL YOU NEED IS LOVE...
AND A CAT.

THANK YOU FOR A LIFE
FULL OF LOVE AND
ADVENTURE.

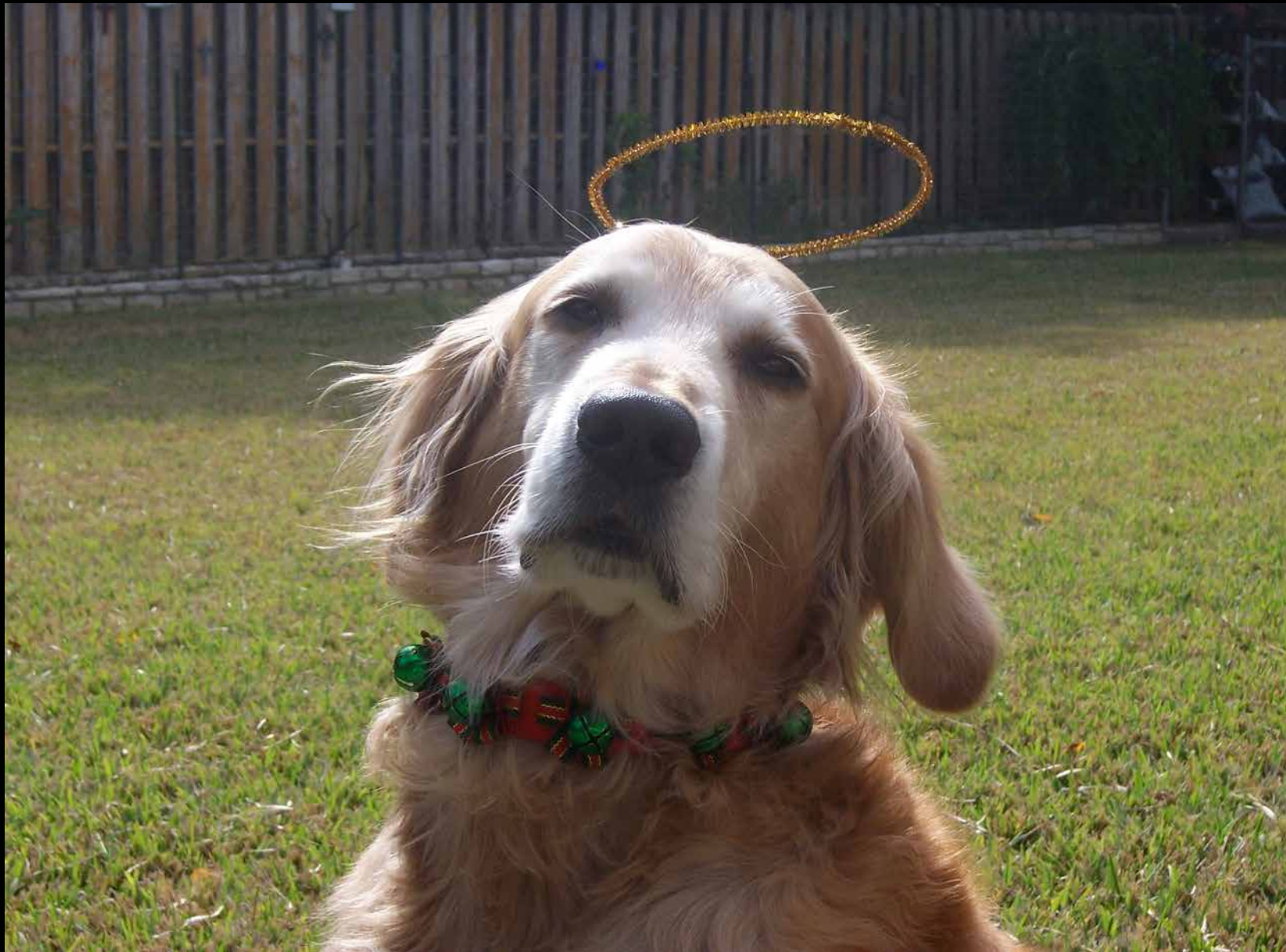
Lola



*Women and cats will do as they please, and men and dogs should relax and
get used to the idea. - Robert A. Heinlein*

YOU'RE THE BEST MAN A
GIRL COULD ASK FOR....(ME
AND MY MAMA - LENORA -
BOTH THINK SO.) MEOW.

Simi



Laura Shay: One thing that is transparent about Bill to anyone that has spent more than an hour with him is how much he loves his animals. More pictures on his phone of his cats and dog than of his wife, kids, and grandkids. When we lost Oban, we all went through a period of mourning, but none more than my Dad. He loved that dog - and he has passed his love of animals to me and Lana, and to our boys. We miss you, Oban!



Laura Shay: Oban's funeral.

"I NEED TO PEE..."

FROM:
BRYAN NOTEBOOM

Anyone who has spent any amount of time with Bill is well aware of his flea-sized bladder and the challenges it can present in a host of situations - both personal and professional. I have lost count of the number of investor presentations and other business meetings that have ground to a halt by Bill uttering those four simple words: "I need to pee" - and we have spent over twenty years of friendship unable to get through a single lunch without some combination of an "urgent" phone call from Lenora ("this will only take a second") or potty break... often multiple calls and breaks.

As someone who is similarly bladder-challenged, I can appreciate the fact that, when nature beckons, it is not a 30-minute warning -- but more like 30 seconds. My family has any number of stories involving our routine two-hour drive to the farm delayed by multiple "pit stops" (I believe the record was six) -- and Bucee's is the greatest creation since the Internet. So, I have a deep, deep understanding of the significance (and urgency) of needing to "go."

Without question, my favorite "I need to pee" memory involved UT sports wherein I had invited Bill to join my teenage son and me for a basketball game.

Following the game, we exited the Erwin Center and started the walk back to the car which was located on the top floor of one of the State of Texas parking garages along Trinity Street. As we made our way up the final flight of stairs, Bill mentioned that he needed to go, "really bad" - in other words: "Code Red." With the car in sight, I hit the unlock button on my key fob so that we could make a quick exit - oddly, Bill was walking (awkwardly) towards a concrete column. As my son's developing brain started to process what was happening, he looked at me with jaw dragging the ground and said, "Dad, I think he's going to pee right here in the parking garage." I smiled and said, "Yes, son - I believe he is . . . "

As Bill approached the makeshift concrete urinal, there was a "ding"

announcing the arrival of the garage elevator - loaded with people (men, women and small children).

Now, I'm not entirely sure if it was the women or children who spooked him, but Bill hit a reverse gear and started sprinting (even more awkwardly) for the car. "I think I'm going to wet my pants - fu*\$%king people." We jumped into the car and made our way down the spiraling garage ramp-- as we exited onto Trinity Street, Bill, in obvious pain and about to lose consciousness, pointed and sputtered "Pull over there."

"Um, but Bill, that's the Ronald McDonald House for children who are dying of cancer and their families."

"I know - they've got bigger things to worry about than some guy peeing in the their parking lot. . . Pull. Over. Now."

Obedying the command, I jumped four lanes of traffic and darted into the RMcD House driveway - Bill jumped out of the car and waddled like a wounded duck into a corner of shrubbery and fence and proceeded to urinate on the Ronald McDonald House for children dying of cancer and their families.

Now, both my son and I had our jaws wide open at the sight of this

grown man relieving himself on a bush.

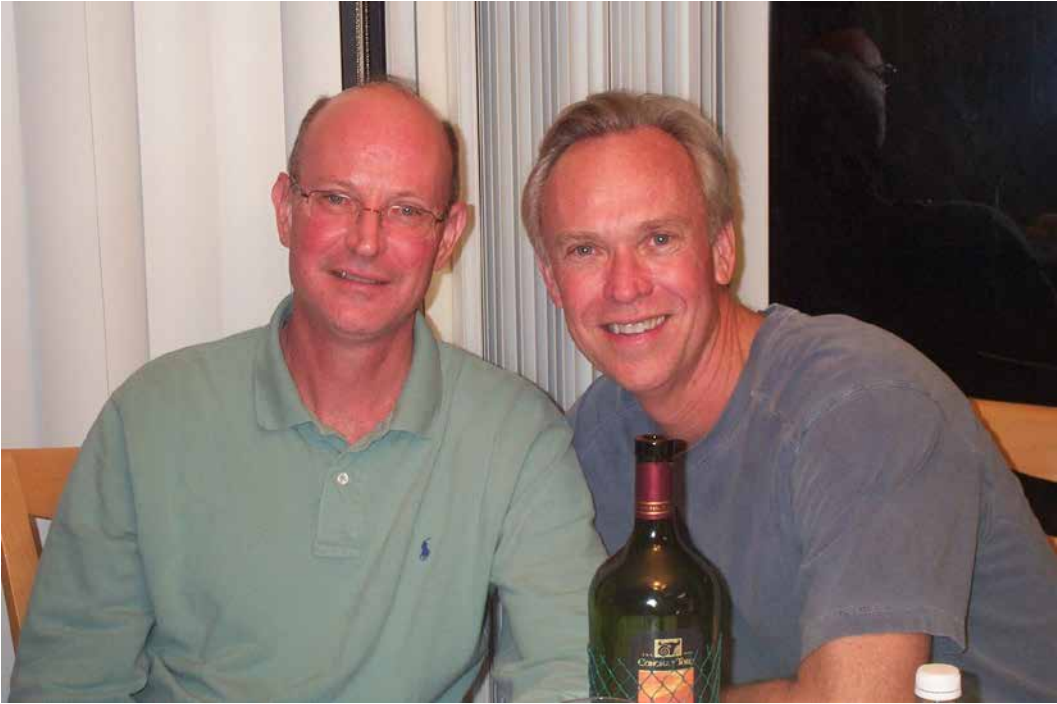
"Dad?"
"Yes, son?"
"He's peeing on the Ronald McDonald House."
"Yes, son - yes, he is . . . "
"Dad?"
"Yes, son?"
"Is that legal?"
"I'm not sure, son, but I don't think we're sticking around to find out..."

We started laughing so hard that I thought I was going to wet my pants. And with that, Bill climbed back into the car, looked at me and said, "That was a close one." We howled the entire way home.

And even though several years have passed, very few of them do so without my son recalling:

"Dad - you remember that time that Mr. Hyché peed on the Ronald McDonald House for children dying of cancer and their families?"
"Yes, son -- yes, I do . . . "
"Was that legal?"

FROM:
MIKE HYCHE



Speaking of peeing....once I was out on the town in Houston with my brother, Bill, and we went to a bar in the Galleria area where he decided to relieve himself before we went in. He chose to pee behind a bush outside the bar. He finished and we proceeded to enter like a couple of wild and crazy guys. Upon entering we were immediately told to leave as the area behind the bush was in full view of the patrons inside the bar. They were obviously not impressed with his stream. Love you, brother, and I'll go drinking with you anytime!

FROM:
DAN NIELSEN

Well, allow me to just say this. If you go on a business trip or a long drive with Bill Hyche, be prepared to stop immediately, and I mean immediately, if he says he has to pee. We were in North Carolina, driving from an airport to a hospital client. I was driving when Bill told me that he needed to pee. I'm thinking that we will drive by a convenient place to stop within the next 15 to 20 minutes. WRONG! When Bill Hyche says he has to pee – he has to pee! And pee right now! The other alternative, of course, is to bring a bucket or a milk carton.

After he “did his business,” I told Bill that I would like to scope his bladder. It can’t be much larger than a pea.

God bless the life and legacy of Bill Hyche! He has truly made a difference and has been a blessing in the lives of many people all across our great country.

Happy birthday, Bill!

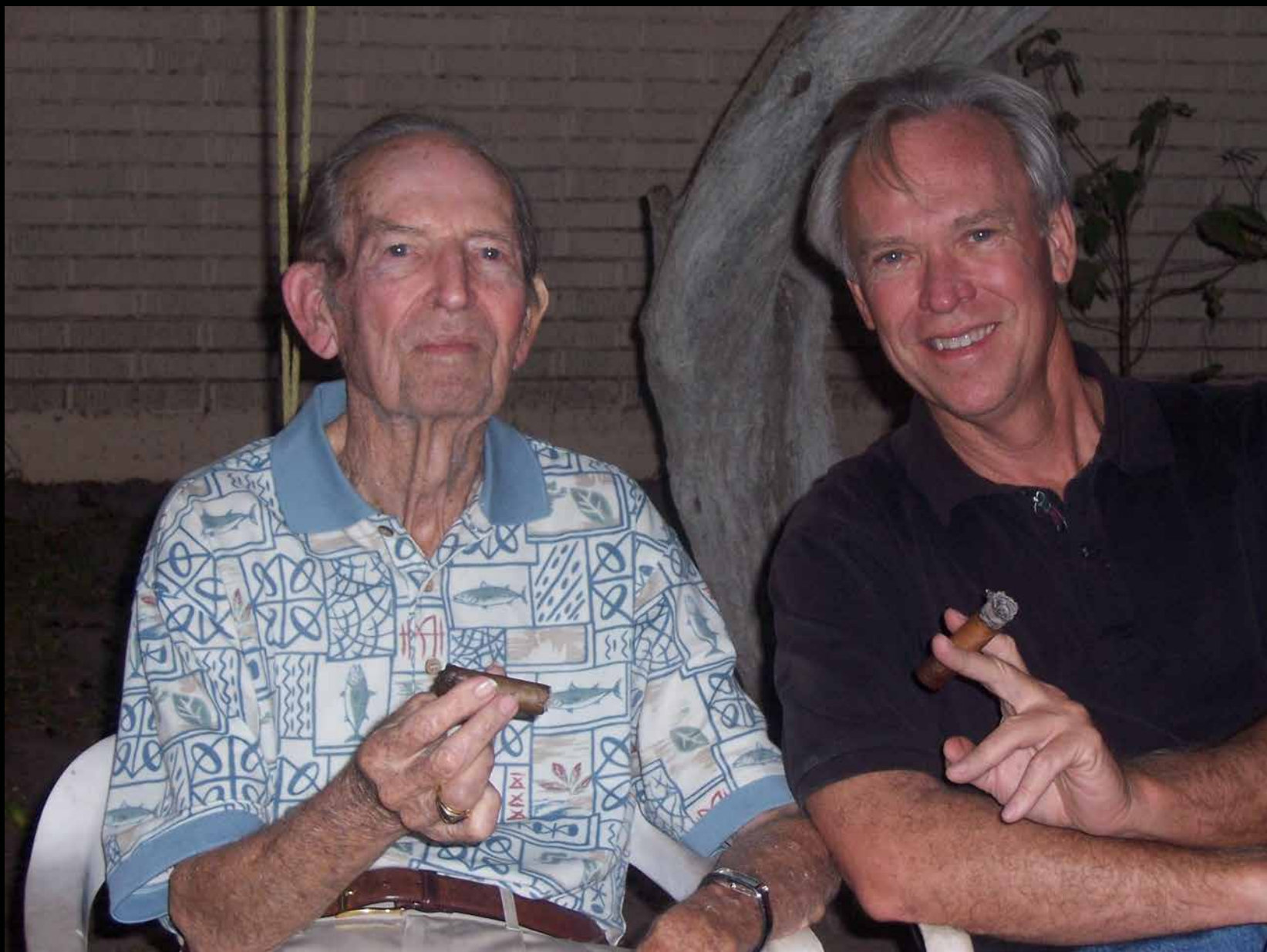
MORE STORIES



FROM:
LAURA SHAY

UNCONDITIONAL LOVE...

Unconditional love....this is how I would describe my father's love towards my mother. Their love is transparent and real and shared with everyone they know. Here they are at their 40th wedding anniversary - which they chose to spend with us. I couldn't have better role models for what love is and how powerful and life-changing it can be.



FROM:

LENORA HYCHE

A MAN FOR ALL SEASONS

I'm writing this in absentia for Gigi and Ed Hyche. They were the perfect parents for Bill and loved him with a rare and glorious love. Bill is their oldest. He was a warm and comforting presence to his parents when his younger brother Gary passed away at a very early age of leukemia. He still is a great big brother to his brother Mike and sister Becky. The love, patience and care Bill gave his parents in their last years was amazing. He gave of his time endlessly and unselfishly. He loved and honored them with his presence on an everyday basis. Bill is now the patriarch of his family. Gigi and Ed taught him well. He stays in touch with brother, sister, nieces and nephews. He cares and he prays for them. He is everything that Gigi and Ed would want him to be and prayed for him to become - a man who loves with all his heart and is loved and respected by all who have the honor of knowing him. Happy Birthday, Billy, from Mom and Dad. We love you!

FROM:
JERALD WELCH



THE HANDBOOK FOR SUCCESS

Bill's handbook for success was written for his grandsons. His inspired tome, although a labor of love intended for his family, it is now an inspiration for children and adults alike. He may never know all of the lives he's touched with this book, but make no mistake, his curated words will continue to move and change people for years to come.

FROM:
DAN NIELSEN

We share many values, interests and passions. Bill Hyche has blessed my life in many ways. I have given away thousands of his books to healthcare leaders all across America. Bill is a superb writer and has a knack for finding and sharing absolutely incredible quotations that each and everyone of us can use to advance our mission, as well as our personal, professional, and organizational goals and objectives.

Happy Birthday, Bill!

FROM:
LANCE AVERY MORGAN

THAT DARNED BILL...

Bill Hyche is a man among men. The fact that he is 70 years old is a great shell for his 1000-year-old soul, which he shares with the planet every day. It is a joy to lunch and share with him - I always walk away a better - and more insightful - man. Happy Birthday, Bill - the best is yet to be! All the best, Lance Avery Morgan

FROM:
DON AND KAY BECK

BILL IS SO DAMN FUNNY...

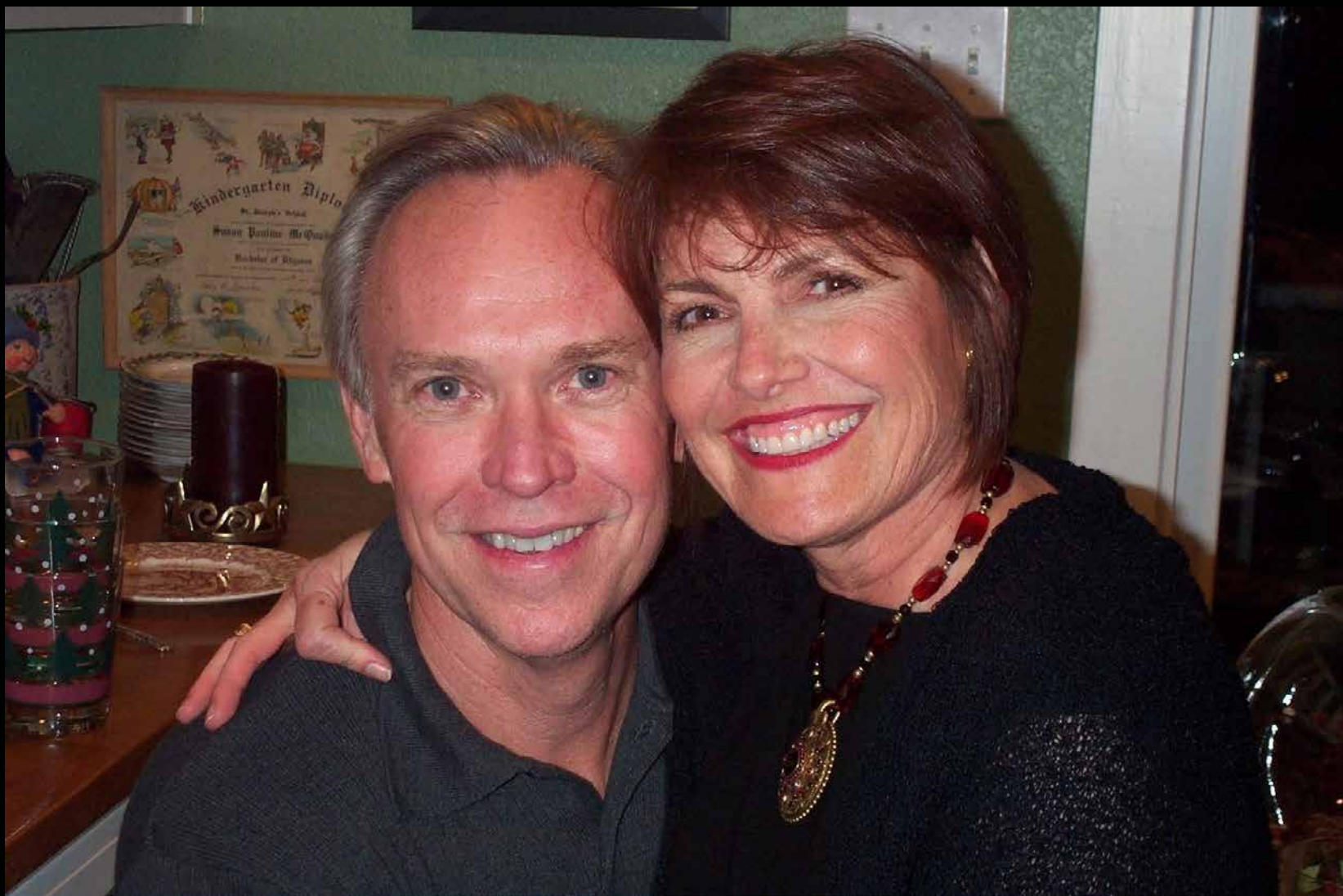
Let's see if we can resurrect old memories and expose some skeletons found in Bill's closet. Lots of water under the bridge with the Hyches! These particular memories go back to the Glenshire days. If stopped today, we'd all be in the slammer. We recall the numerous times Bill would throw us like a herd of cattle in the back of his van - no seats, just wall-to-wall carpet and giant pillows. Propped on pillows, music blasting, with our choice of beverage in hand, off we'd go with Chauffeur Bill at the helm. Our destination might have been to take in a tennis tournament, chow down at one of several Mexican eateries, or our favorite, The Cadillac Bar and Grill!!!! We girls always had some hot gossip which needed to be shared or maybe a tennis match outcome we had to justify. For the guys, it was game after game of Liar's Poker. The further the travels, the more the good times just mounted. Not sure how, but Bill always got us to the front door of our intended destination. We'd roll out, all primed and ready to go. The return trip was usually a little quieter but Bill would manage to maneuver the Houston streets and get us merry-makers home. Thanks, Bill!!!! There are also the New Year's commercials.... "Lenora, this toilet paper is too damned soft!!!"

Happy Birthday!

FROM:
MARK VOSS

TOM DOOLEY

I remember high school with Bill and our folk trio with Tricia (her stage name). We performed at many events, singing the popular folk music of the day. Bill and I were the side show as Patty (real name) was the center of attention - as well she should have been. She later went on to Broadway and then Hollywood, while Bill and I were stuck in Texas - Bill in Austin and I in Houston, now Kerrville. I will always be thankful for that time with Bill, since I still am involved with music today and was influenced by that time in my life.



FROM:

DONNA LIPMAN

THE DREAM!

There are so many memories I could share about the amazing Bill Hyché - Windstar, teaching me how to make beautiful, creative cards during the holidays, our mutual love of John Denver and his music, and more. But, the most memorable and inspiring moments spent with Bill were around the creation of our song, The Dream! After many years of friendship, Bill called me one day to let me know that he had always wanted to do something with me, but he wasn't quite sure what that might be. He further explained that he had awoken one day to the melody of a song in his head, but he had very few words for it. He asked if I wanted to help him write it. Having never written a song in the past, I was a bit nervous. Being a singer, it had always been a dream of mine to write music. But, I didn't think I actually had that particular "gene!" I said yes, and next thing I knew, we were sitting in Shady Grove, writing the words to this beautiful song. And then, Bill arranged for us to go into the studio to record it!! It was the culmination of a dream come true for me. Thank you, dear Bill, for your generosity of spirit and heart and for reaching out to me. I am honored beyond words to be a part of The Dream.

THE DREAM

*I have had a change of thinking; I have had a change of mind.
I used to think I knew it all, but found that I was blind.
Now I see that I am questioning what used to seem so true.
How will I see
Which path for me
Will set me free?*

*I have had a change of feeling; I have had a change of heart.
I am willing now to risk it all and hold my fear apart.
I will let myself believe in me and make a brand new start.
How will I know
Which way to go?
My heart will show.*

*I want to know - is this the time to live a life that's free?
I want to see - is this the way to lead to destiny?
I want to live the dream in me.*

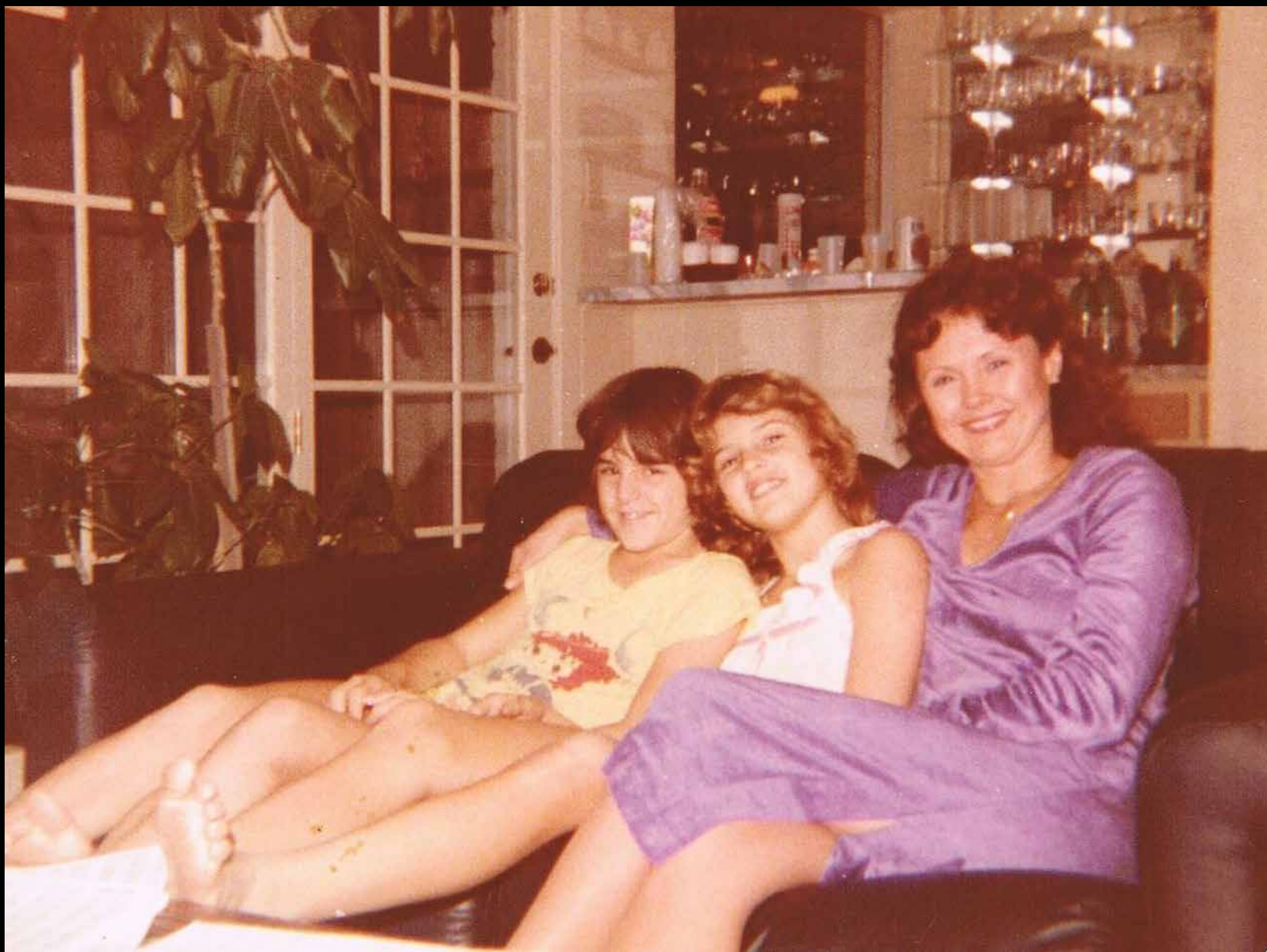
*I never knew my dreams could become reality.
I thought it was a myth or just another fantasy.
But here I am, willing to take a leap of faith
To risk it all and finally, take this step of grace.*

*I am open to new learning, I am open to new ways.
I am willing to forgive my past and live for just today.
I will cast my fate into the wind and never question chance.
Someday in time
I know I'll find
Which way is mine.*

*I want to know, is this the time to live a life that's free?
I want to see, is this the way to lead to destiny?
I want to live the dream in me.*

*In the life that I'm now living I have come to realize
That everything I longed for has been right before my eyes.
I have no fear of tomorrow and no need for yesterday.
My life is now
I know somehow
I'll take my bow...
This sacred vow
I know somehow
My life is now.*

I love you, Bill Hyche!



FROM:

BECCA CHADDICK BIVINS

A FULL HEART

As I dig through my memory bank, I remember with great fondness the time I spent growing up at the Hyche household. It was a home that was always full of love and laughter. What I remember most about Bill is his ability to love. As a preteen, I was in awe of his love first, for Lenora, then his love for Laura and Lana. Bill and Lenora shared a love relationship that I knew I would like to have one day. Happy 70th, Bill. Thank you for the example you set of loving your wife and daughters.

FROM:
JOHN COOK

JOHN COOK

RICKY ROCKET IS MY FAVE!

There are a lot of stories that involve Bill! I remember Bill saying one time that the whole point of living is to generate good stories. And Bill has done a lot of living!

The company that Bill and I were partners in, Computer Information Architects (and later, Medic Computer Systems), was based in Lubbock at that time. Bill was the head of sales for the company. We had planned a company meeting in Lubbock, so Bill and Lenora were flying to Lubbock. We all thought it would be funny to meet him at the airport as if he were somebody famous, just to see his reaction and the reaction of others in the airport.

Bruce, the president of the company, dressed up as a reporter with a microphone. I was the cameraman, with a video camera and a bright light on the camera. Bruce's wife, Deb, and her sister dressed up as groupies, and other people in the company were the "throng" who had come to see the celebrity.

This was the day when you could meet planes at the gate, so we were all waiting in ambush at the door into the terminal from the jetway. As soon as Bill and Lenora stepped into the terminal,

the lights came on, the crowd rushed Bill, the groupies screamed, and it was general hubbub.

Of course, Bill fell immediately into character. He naturally assumed the identity of his rock-star alter ego, Ricky Rocket. Bruce began interviewing Ricky, and the crowd pressed around him. Everyone else in the airport was straining to see the celebrity that was causing all the noise. My favorite interview question was when the reporter Bruce asked Ricky about his female companion (Lenora). Like any superstar catering to his fans, he immediately said, "Oh, this is my sister!"

We followed Ricky all the way to baggage claim and then to the curb, where we had a stretch limo waiting for him. As he sped off, the most fun was interviewing all of the people on the airport curb who had gathered around to see Ricky. When Bruce asked one woman if she had ever heard of Ricky Rocket, she said that he was her daughter's favorite artist! You can't make this stuff up.

But that was Ricky/Bill. He lived in the moment, and was always game for some fun. Although I am sure he heard a bit more from his "sister!"

By the way, the song I always associate with Ricky was his # 1 hit, "You Were the Special Sauce on my Cheeseburger of Love (But You Done Pickled Out On Me.)"

FROM:
JERALD WELCH

BILL IS A FRIEND

Bill Hyche rarely goes out into the public domain in the Austin area without him running into someone he knows. His charm is always there, but charm alone doesn't make for longtime friends. He has become one of my best friends by "showing up" for me. He is present and non-judgmental, and speaks the truth. It's no wonder he has so many friends, enduring for so many years.



FROM:
GINA HILL

KINDNESS

There is no better word to describe my dear friend Bill than KIND. Merriam-Webster defines kind this way: "having or showing a gentle nature and a desire to help others."

I have had the privilege to serve the children of the Austin community with him for the past couple of years through The Austin Boys and Girls Clubs Foundation, and what a privilege it has been to know this kind and gentle man.

We attended many, many meetings together planning for a big fundraising event. From the very first meeting I attended with him until this day, he'd add thoughtful and wise feedback to every discussion, and then Bill would ALWAYS say "Well, how can I help?"

Never once was his question intended as a rhetorical one. Always



offering to help for the benefit of others whenever he can.

Always an inspiration to me!

He has demonstrated his desire to help others be their best - including me - in one of the simplest ways I know, by just being Bill, being KIND.

Happy Birthday, Bill!

FROM:
CRAIG L. CLARK

12 YEARS WITH BILL

I recall first meeting while having a snack at the bar and grill of one of the Lakeway golf courses. My entry into our men's group. In a short conversation we discovered a number of places our paths crossed or had familiar experiences. They have continued to do so, frequently associated with a bar and grill, probably just coincidental. I quickly realized you were one of those people that, when they spoke, others listened. That was certainly true for our group. A quality you inspired me to pay more attention to. As you have many times over the past 14 years. I'm hard pressed to sum up those 14 years in a few words and any and every thing I would say would be carved of growing value in our friendship. We have commiserated, consumed, collaborated, crafted, gossiped, dreamed and laughed - oh, how we have laughed. Then I met the ever young and lovely Lenora and my esteem for you immediately went up. A boy that marries well and can keep her has promise! So for your birthday, I will just say congratulations for making it, and I honor you for your strength of

independence, your willingness to take risks, your creativity in your thinking and ability to see unique sides to things. You are an honorable man and have acquitted yourself well in life.

Happy birthday, dear friend, this occasion may warrant a road trip.

Maybe true friends are the ones you know so well that what you can't print in a document such as this speaks much higher of the relationship than what you can, making us "BFF's!"

Love, hugs and blessings,

Your Buddy, for better or worse!

C

FROM:
JASON SUGAWA

BILL(T) TO LAST

One of my favorite perspectives in life is that you should treat every person you meet as a learned Buddha. No one has this sense of curiosity and openness to the universe more than Bill. He has the zest, enthusiasm and personal curiosity of a bright-eyed 20-year-old. He makes every person feel special, and it's clear from the other stories in this book I'm not the only one who feels this way. But conversations with Bill quickly move to him asking, "How can I help and support YOU?" I think what strikes me about Bill is the longevity of the wisdom he imparts. His advice is always spot on, founded in a place of deep experience, and more specifically, filled with care and emotion for making YOU successful. The interaction is powerful. The approach is selfless. The advice is always timeless.

For me, Bill will always represent the Handbook for Success. While this is really the only venture I've seen from the front row, it's the perfect glimpse of what it's like to get the full Bill Hyche Experience. Has strong business ideas, transforms lives and a community, and has a legacy that will benefit our children's children.

Bill, you are good people. One of the best, really.

FROM:
SCOTT INGRAM

FROM:
RICHARD BAGDONAS

FROM:
BILL WALSH

FROM:
DON JASPERS

IF I COULD PICK A FATHER, IT
WOULD BE BILL

YOU'RE NOT SO OLD!

JUST A GOOD MAN

Bill is a mentor among mentors. He always seems to have just the right story or the right anecdote wrapped in a pure gold nugget of advice. Whether he's teaching you the value of "speaking to open doors," or demonstrating with a rubber band (which he just happens to magically have with him?) why your level of motivation isn't what it was at the start of your project. Most importantly, Bill practices what he preaches. If I'm anywhere near the level of health, fitness and wisdom as Bill Hyché is when I'm 70, then I'll know that I'm on the right track.

Happy 70th Birthday, Bill! You are an incredible friend and mentor. Thank you!

My father passed away when I was about 12. Over the years I have found father figures in various people. It wasn't until I met Bill that I realized what a father could be. Bill has the makings for the perfect father. He is warm, sweet, caring, nurturing, and inspiring.

Not to mention he picked the perfect woman as his counterpart on this adventure.

Bill's children are most certainly pleased as punch with the person the universe brought them to lead their family. I am honored to have him in my life, too.

Billy Hyché, you are only seventy? I'm seventy and 7 months....a lot older! And we both have so many blessings, including our health, family, and friends. And as I hope you know, you are one of my very special friends from way back (50+ years!) because you are truly a special guy. The memories we have are great ones (that we can remember still), and we need to create some more, so looking forward to getting with you and Lenora one day soon.

God bless,

Su amigo, Billy Walshee

P S. GO BULLDOGS!

I remember meeting Bill when my employer was acquired. Fearful I wouldn't have a job, instead I found a mentor, trusted friend, and all-around good man. I always enjoy our thoughtful discussions. Happy Birthday, Bill!

FROM:
TOM BETTES

BILL, BILL, BILL

Bill, Bill, Bill - You know that financial wisdom does not come from listening to your tortillas while drinking margaritas. On second thought, maybe this is one of those stories that remains among good friends.



FROM:
CAROLINE BARTLEY

ONLY BILL.

Thank you for loving and caring for my sister so well. You are such a blessing to our family. Reading all the threads from mentor and teacher to friend... all I can say is DITTO...ONLY BILL.



FROM:
BARBARA SMITH

A FRIEND FOR ALL SEASONS

OK, so we all show our butts to our friends at some point - Bill chose to do it literally.

This 1985 picture of the very brown-haired Bill was during a raucous time of our youth – and there were many. We met nearly 15 years earlier; do the math. We were in our 20's and it was the 1970s in Houston, Texas! Bill and Lenora were our closest friends. Robert and Bill worked together; we lived in the same neighborhood, raised our very young children together, traveled together. The kind of friendship that all these years later, when memories and stories are shared, there are tears and laughter. Mostly tears from laughter.

I am very fortunate to have such a lifelong friendship. Bill is a steady soul and a steadfast friend. We've gone 'round the world together in our experiences of life. And, he has always been there.

70 years old?!! It is surreal to me – and I know it is to him, too. But he is doing this stage of life beautifully!

Happy Birthday! Love you - Barbara

FROM:
MIKE SHAY

WHO IS BILL?

To me? It's a simple question, at face value; Bill, however, is a complex and versatile man.

Bill Hyche has impacted my life for 21 years, in ways great and small. He's family. He's a friend. I've seen his will and his strength, I've seen his victories and his legacy. I've seen him joyous and proud; I've seen him bent by raw emotion in the process of weathering adversity. I've learned lessons from him, and I've seen him illuminated by new wisdom he's gained and electrified by new ideas for him to ponder and pursue.

I've seen him demonstrably lose his temper less than a handful of times (I grew up in an Irish extended family, where many of us had transgressed more greatly by the end of New Year's Day, annually).

Right, simple question, so get to the answer. Bill is a caring friend. He is, by nature, a sensitive, altruistic person. I believe that this sensitivity is the muse for his great artistic and creative side. Day to day, it is responsible for his concern for the happiness and well-being of his friends and



family. He seems to have a radar in this regard, also. And his concern never seems obtrusive, or meddling, never self-serving. Whether my spirits be high, low, or in-between, I've always felt comfortable and companionable, in conversation or in quiet reflection, in his company. That kind of love, acceptance, and valued friendship is a rarity in one's life, and for who he is for me, I honor and thank Bill.

Finally, in tribute to Bill's interest in quotations, here's one from "Bill" Wordsworth (not a contemporary of Bill Hyche's, I'm informed), for Bill:

"The best portion of a good man's life: his little, nameless, unremembered acts of Kindness and Love."

FROM:
CRUZ ROJAS

THE ROCK

I’ve known Bill about 23 years. I met him and Lenora when my son, Jeffrey, was dating their daughter, Lana. Bill would become Jeffrey’s father-in-law, and through the years we have developed a lasting friendship. We share and enjoy a wonderful relationship as grandparents to amazing grandchildren. About 8 years ago, I was experiencing a very difficult, emotional, personal time in my life. One day, after a conversation with Bill, he wrote and sent me “The Rock.” Bill has a gift and a unique way of seeing things from a perspective that captured exactly how I felt. I read “The Rock” often and it gives me peace. Bill - God bless you with many more memorable years! I love you, my friend.



Unable to soothe my concerns and fears I sit by a mountain stream,
Looking across the stream I see a rock that is looking across the stream at me.
The rock is chipped and worn with time. So am I.
The rock has access only to the water where it lies and that water flows swiftly.
I have access only to the present moment and that moment flows swiftly as well.
Although the stream is deep and broad, the rock has access only to the water it touches.
Although life is varied and abundant I have access only to that part of life that touches me.
Upstream the water flows from a stand of trees. The rock cannot see the water beyond the trees.
Likewise I cannot see beyond the stand of the future. I may hope or I may fear but my future is unknown to me.
The water flows downstream past the rock, forever over a fall and into the past. My past is gone forever as well,
I may suffer regrets or delight in accomplishments but my past is past.
Birds have used the rock as a resting place. Some of the birds have soiled the rock. I know how the rock feels.
However, the rock does not absorb the bird’s waste. Neither will I absorb waste from the birds in my life.
Behind the rock is a magnificent cliff. The rock has broken away from the cliff and lies by the stream apart.
Behind my life are magnificent family and friends and I am a part of those relationships forever.
The rock has seen flood and drought. So have I.
The rock has endured. So will I.
Sometimes the stream is clear and pure; sometimes murky and dark.
The rock is in the stream but the rock is not the stream.
My life has varied circumstance. Some circumstance is favorable and some difficult.
All are temporary. I am not the circumstance of my life.
The evening darkens and chills. I must return home.
Thank you rock.

William E. Hyche © 2009



Cruz Rojas: One thing that Bill and I share in common is our love of Thanksgiving! And I am blessed to have spent so many of them with Bill and Lenora - and I am thankful for them every day.

FROM:
CHIP BECKER

BILL THE GREAT!

Bill is comfortable in any setting! Women love him, men find him interesting, and children and animals eat right out of his hand! He's an incomparable conversationalist, knows much about almost everything (just ask him), and is a brilliant entrepreneur. My family and friends all find him a very sweet, generous, talented and entertaining guy!

We are blessed to have Bill in our lives! -cb



FROM:
CHIP BECKER

BILL... MY BROTHER FROM ANOTHER MOTHER

Bill and I were separated at birth.... well, by about 13 or so years, but that's another story! Bill and I share the same love of fine scotch, Tequila and cold beer. Many times we've met to share the events of our day and hopefully, lighten the other's load over one or all of our favorite cold beverages. Often, after we've solved each other's problems, we move on to bigger issues and usually (after several more favorite beverages), have solved most of the world's major problems....(if only for the moment)! We share our love of music, great stories and beautiful women (as exemplified by our choice of our beautiful wives).

I know we could both be happy living on some tropical island, tending bar and pursuing all of the aforementioned loves in life!

It's not often that a friend like Bill comes along and so perfectly meshes with your own passions!

I'm blessed to know Bill and count him as great friend!

FROM:
TINA FORE

I AM SO LUCKY BILL CHOSE ME...

I first met Bill in 2009 while I was working as an online advertising rep. Bill reached out to me looking for a way to increase sales for Lenora's business. Little did I know that Bill was interviewing me to help him and Lenora with a new business adventure. Boy, did that turn out to be one great day! Since then, both Bill and Lenora have taken me under their wings and treated me like one of their own. Regardless of time or distance, I know I will always have a place in the Hyche home.

Bill has a special way of making everyone around him feel special. His wisdom is wise. His enthusiasm is enthusiastic. His smile is contagious and his jokes are funny. Bill has been a mentor, a father figure, a comedian, and a friend.

I am so lucky Bill chose me...

FROM:
RONNIE RABEN

A WONDERFUL GUY

I recall your warm smile and generous gesture the very first time I met you. I felt your love and strong presence as you said my name several times. Each time I have heard from you and thought about you over the past 25 years that very same initial feeling has been present. You are smart, handsome, and loyal. When I think of you turning 70, my very best thought to convey who you are for me is that I wish I was one of your grandchildren.

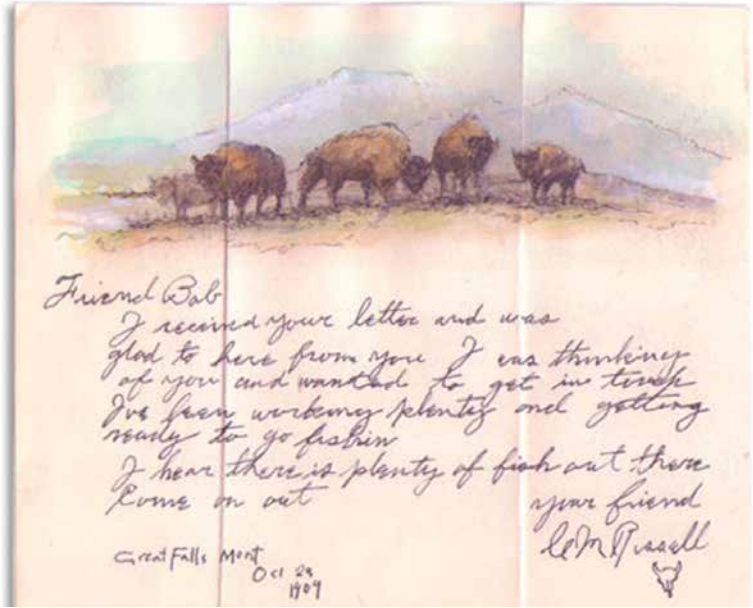
FROM:
MIKE COFFIN

FRIEND BILL

A favorite book of mine is a collection of letters written, and illustrated, by the famous western artist Charles Russell. It's filled with great stories written in the artist's distinctive handwriting and wrapped around his amazing sketches. But for me, the most remarkable thing about the book is the way each letter begins -- with the word "Friend." Friend Bob. Friend Joe. Friend Sam. And so on. What a wonderful salutation! So much warmer and distinctive than the ubiquitous "Dear."

One day, while I was having coffee with Bill, swapping stories and doodling on our notepads, I suddenly thought of the book. And that's how my friend Bill became Friend Bill.

Bill loves to quote quotes, as do I. And one of the first ones I wrote down was the phrase. "The seed never sees the flower." It's an Arab proverb, of all things, and I think it perfectly captures Bill's buoyant,



generous, selfless spirit. I don't believe I ever left one of our coffee meetings without a smile on my face and feeling better about the world. Friend Bill, thank you for spreading the seeds of joy, hope, good humor, kindness, grace and warmth. And, sorry to tell you this my friend, but the quote is just wrong. Flip through the pages of this book, old seed. My, what beautiful flowers!

Coffee soon. Or maybe something stronger?

Friend Mike

FROM:
CAMREN KING

BACKYARD GRILLING



A tradition that Granddad, Michael, and I all love and share is the tradition of grilling. Granddad taught Michael and me how to grill before our parents taught us how to walk! There are few things in this world better than grilling steaks, drinking beer, and smoking cigars with Granddad and Michael in the backyard.

FROM:
CAMREN KING

YARD WORK



Granddad taught all of his grandsons to be extremely hard and honest workers, whether it be doing yard work for Pama, selling books at the local coffee shop, or launching lemons at a hundred miles per hour at fences! (I'll get to that later...)

FROM:
CAMREN KING

YARD WORK



Football, beer, hot dogs, music, fraternities, girls. These are the things that I got to share with Grandad and Pama when they came down for parents' weekend, in lieu of my parents (they had other obligations). I had so much fun with him, introducing him to all of my fraternity brothers. I'm so thankful that they came.



FROM:
BRYNNE CARTER

FAMILY RESEMBLANCE

Some of my favorite memories with Grandad are all of the times he has introduced me as his granddaughter and people comment on how much I look like him! In the time that I have known Grandad, he has accepted me and treated me as one of his own grandchildren. He has shown me so much kindness and taught me many important lessons about life. He has truly made me feel like a part of his family and I am so thankful for all he has done and continues to do for me. I love the time we have spent painting and making art together, and I look forward to the many more masterpieces to come!!!

FROM:
LANA KING

WHAT MAKES A MAN...

In the end, only three things matter: How much you loved, how gently you lived and how gracefully you let go of things not meant for you.

Dad - your love extends deep and wide, you have lived and continue to live gently, and the grace you have demonstrated in your life for things not meant for you, large and small, have made you a great man. I am beyond blessed to have you as my father.



PHOTOS



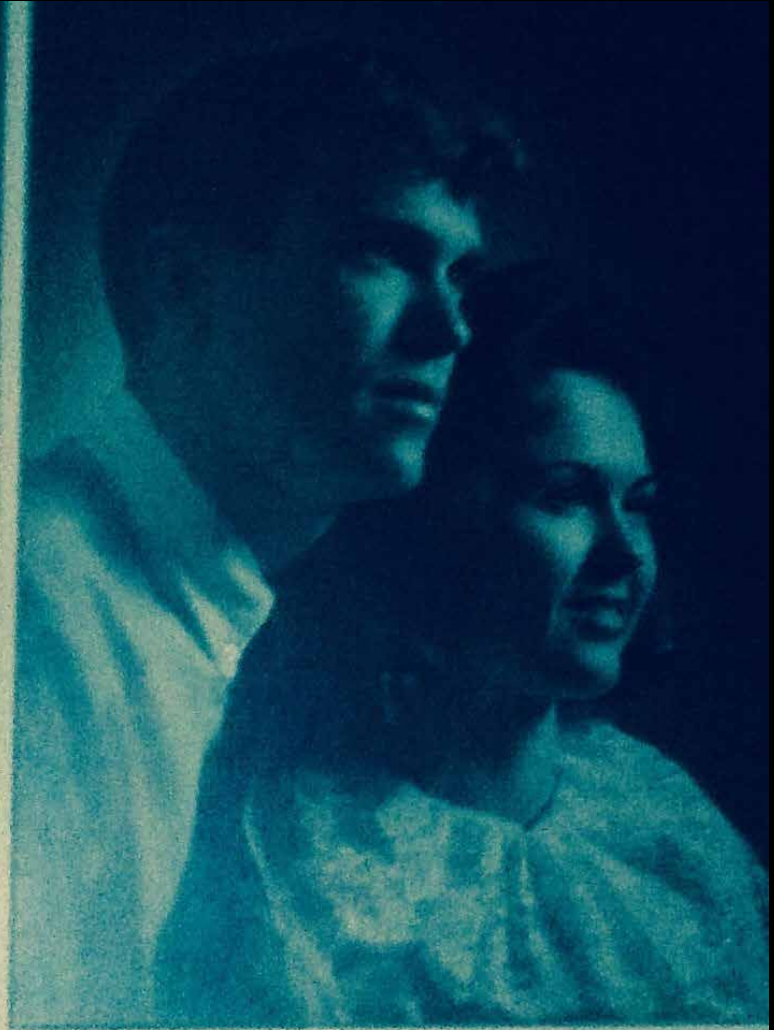
Lana King: Take me to church... circa 1983



Lana King: The beauty of shoulder pads...beautiful mom and dad!



Laura Shay: Yes...I'm part of the coolest family ever. Doesn't he look like Magnum P.I.?



Laura Shay: A beautiful couple.....here's to Bill and Lenora!



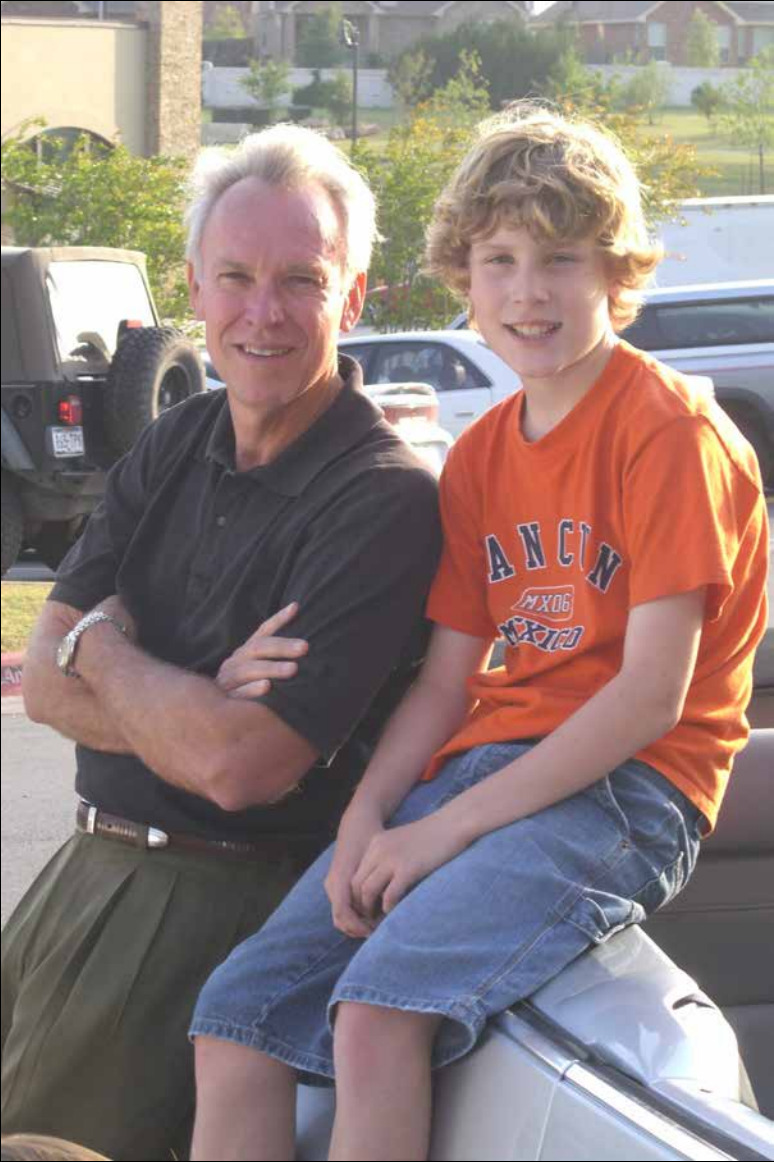
Laura Shay: San Francisco, 1987... Amazing family vacation!



Laura Shay: Hmmmmm. Open fire. Small boys all holding sticks that they are DYING to use to either light on fire or to poke embers. Or poke each other. As usual, Grandad is providing zero supervision but somehow the “everything will be OK” space that he holds is enough to keep mischief at bay - and the boys all leave smoky, happy, and with a sense that they just had a great adventure.



Tom Bettes: Bill is so damn funny. Love the lake with the Hyches.



Michael Shay, Jr.: I was 12 years old in this picture. 12 years of hanging out as often as possible with my Grandad. Riding around in his convertibles was one of my most favorite things. Grandad, you're awesome.



Chip Becker: Lunar eclipse watching with Bill, Lenora and friends. 2015. Yes... we're sitting on top of a two-story house, drinking alcohol, looking at the moon! We probably also ran with scissors as kids!



Chip Becker: Bill working his magic with the ladies.... New Year's Eve 2015



Chip Becker: Bill and Lenora at The Four Seasons- 2015

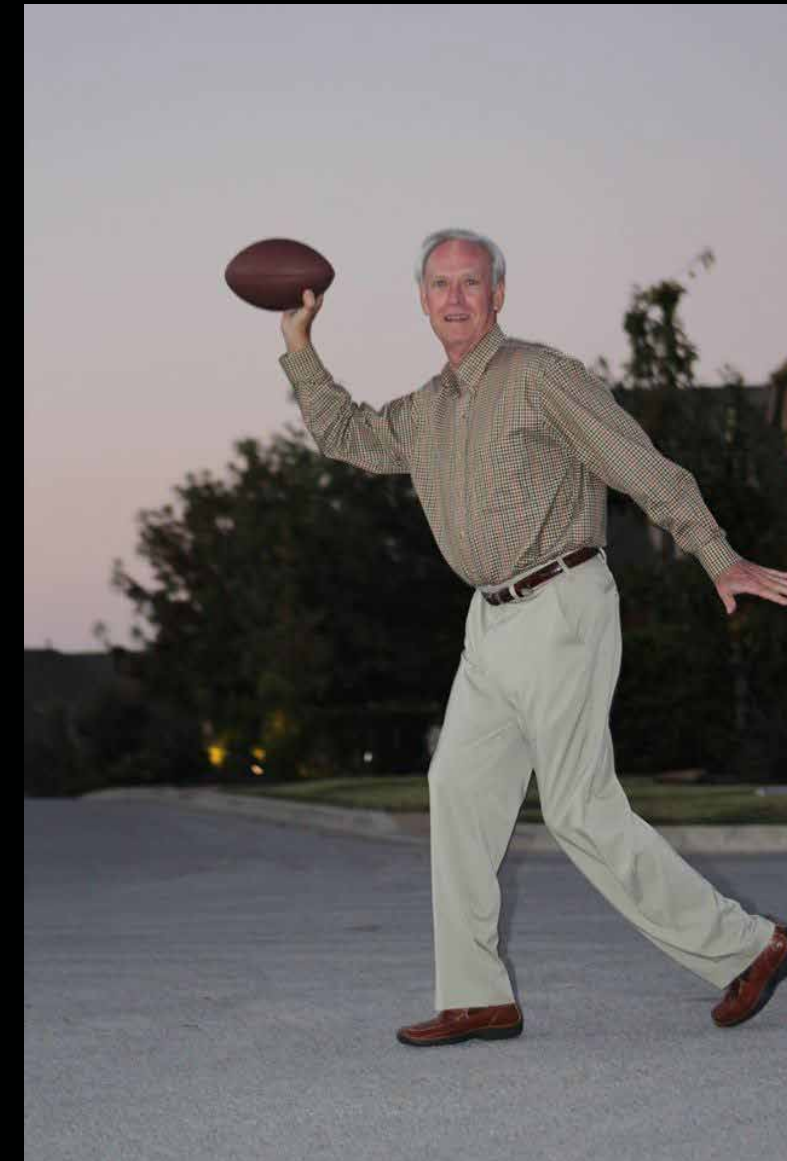


Chip Becker: Lenora correcting Bill and I... putting things in a new perspective!



Chip Becker: "Cowboy Bill".... The guy I'd most enjoy doing just about anything with!

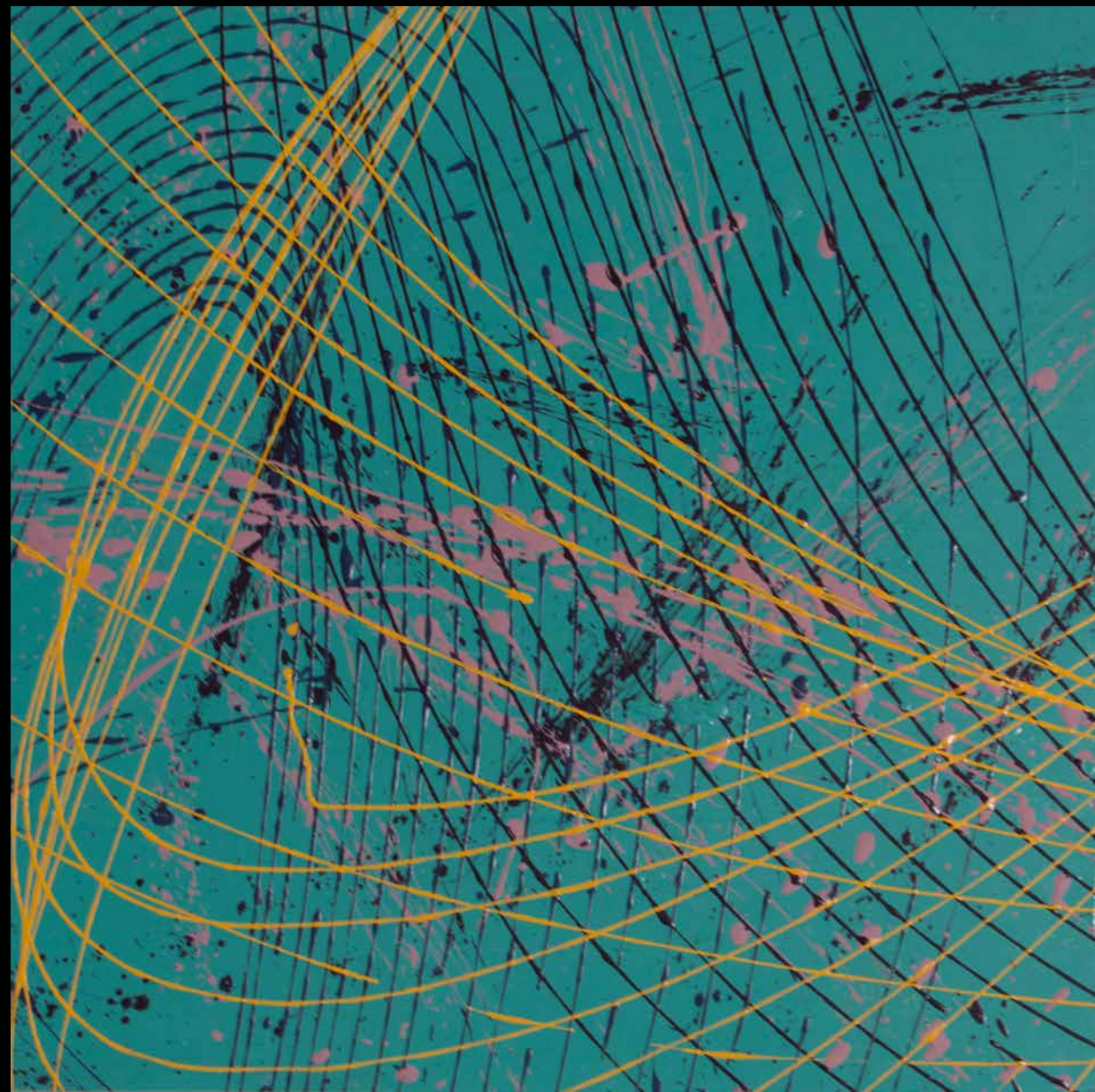
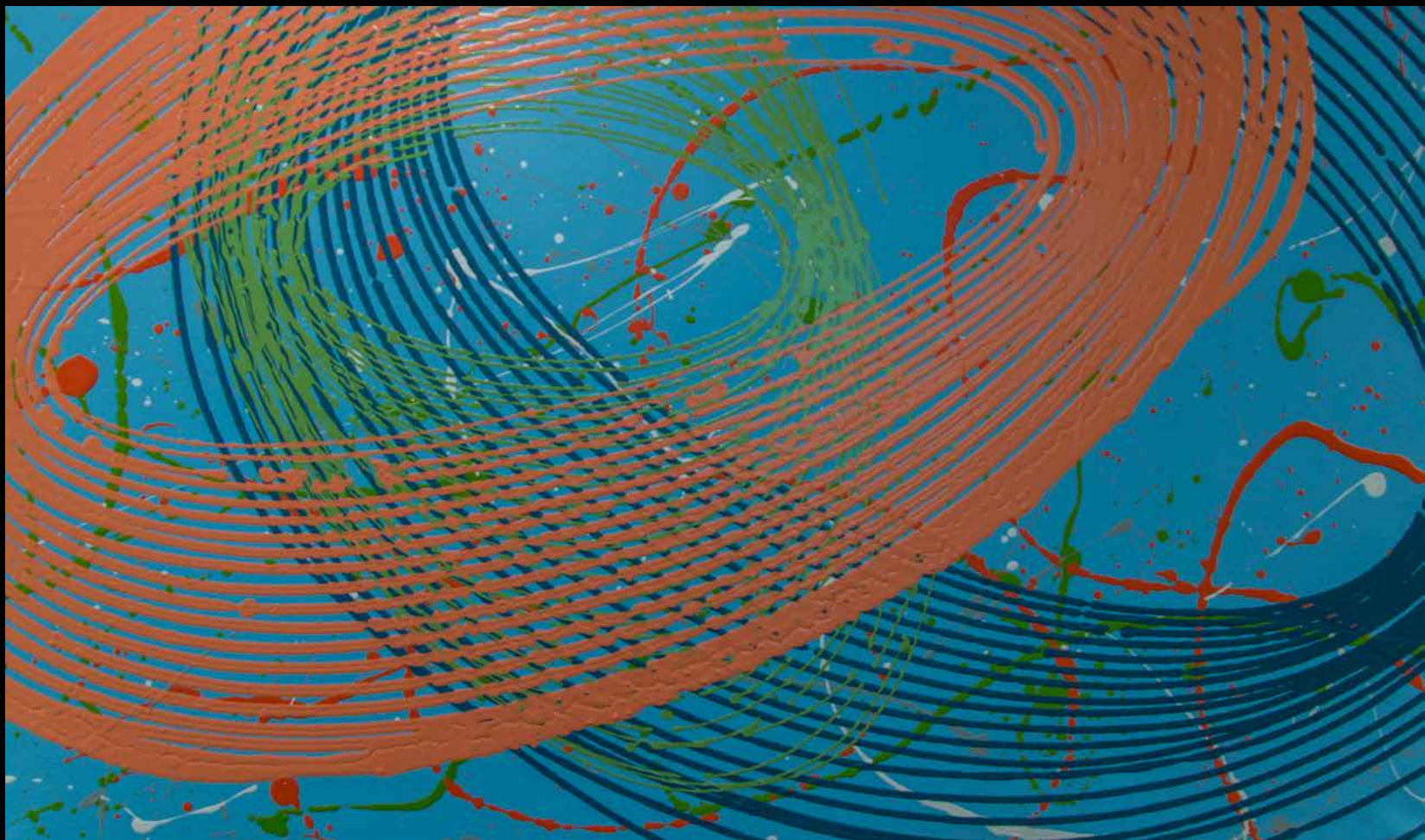
True story.... Quote from Bill (because he loves quotes)... After listening to our pretty young waitress tell us why she was sad.... Bill remarks, "Well... keep your chin up, otherwise you'll just be looking at your own boobs all day..." CLASSIC!

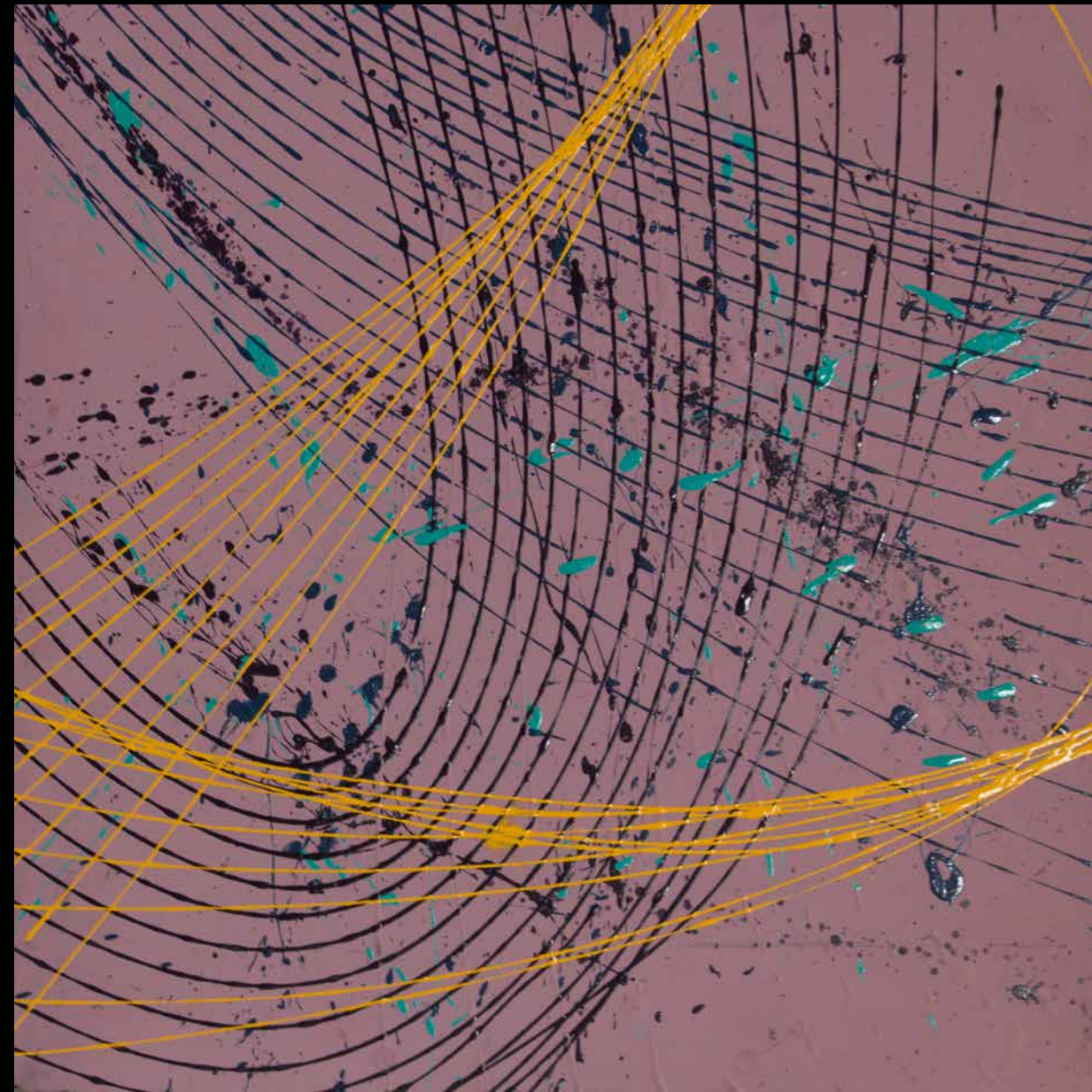
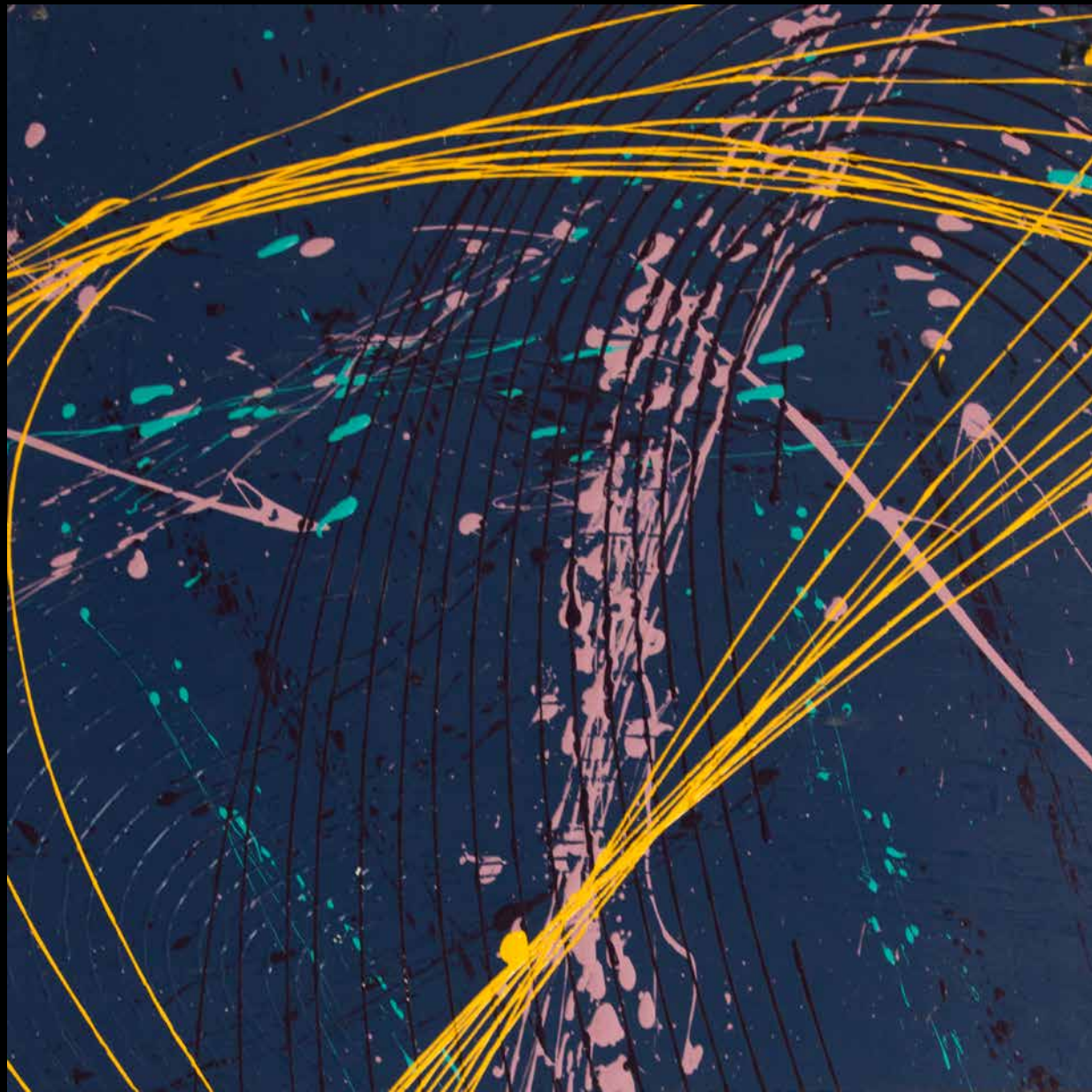


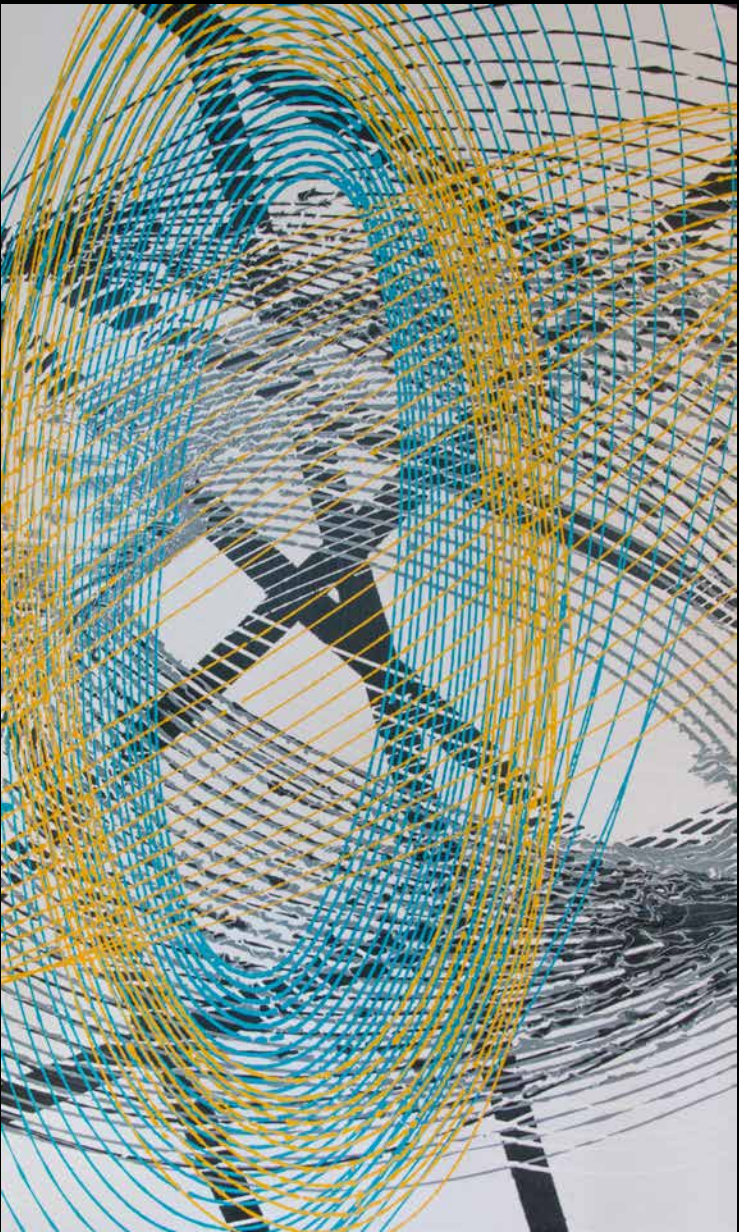
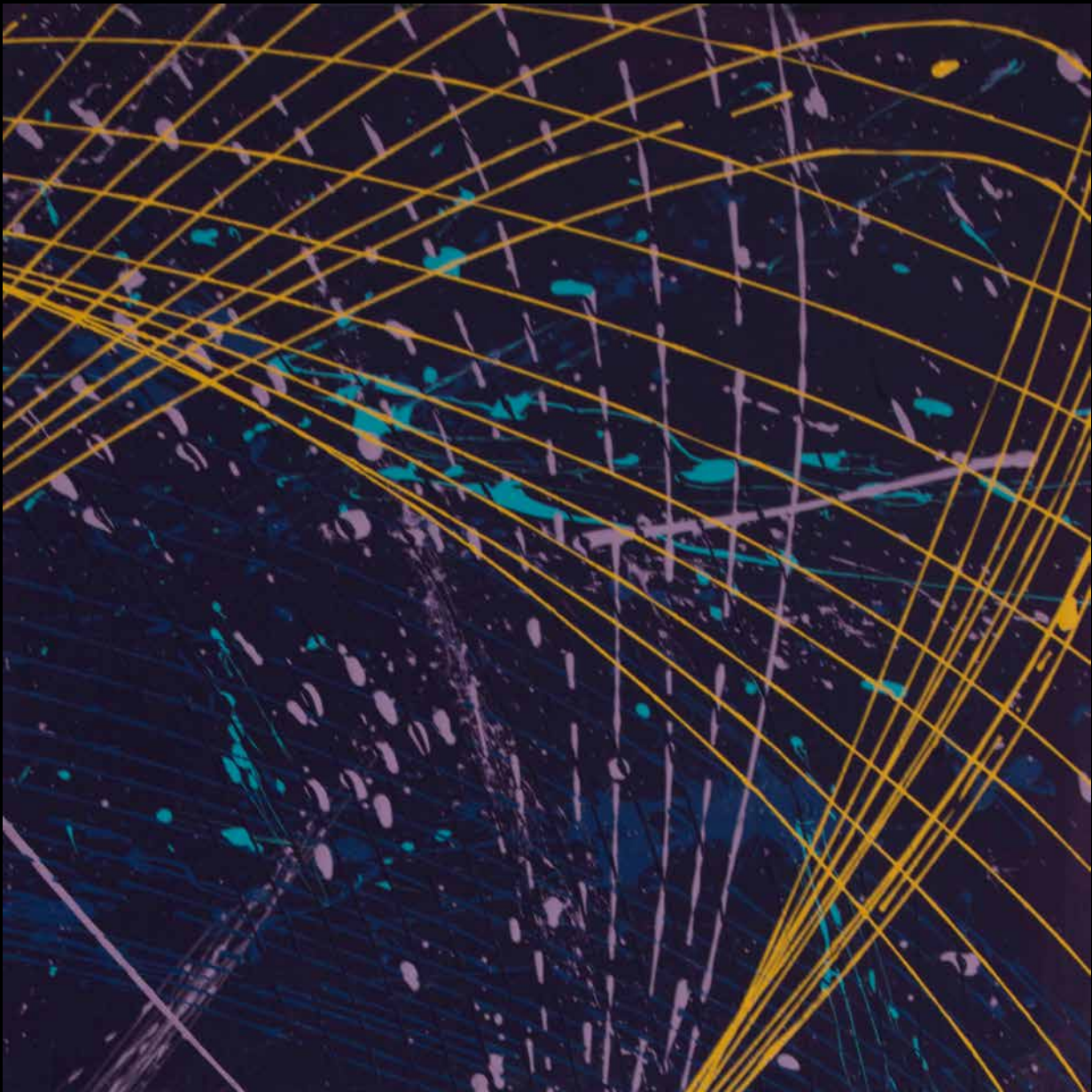
Camren King: "Heisman Pose" - Playing football with Grandad after the huge Thanksgiving feast is never a let-down.



PAINTINGS







As we finish this book, we are left wanting more... more stories, more laughter, more of Bill and who we get to be when we are with him. To that end, I leave you with Bill's most famous quote: "You can always order another one."

Here's to Bill and all the joy, laughter, love and fun yet to be had!

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