

LIFE LESSONS FROM MY FATHER

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Last month, we featured “Leadership Lessons from my Father” to share many fond memories and learnings from my first professional experience with my dad, Ronald J. Bordui, at the American Osteopathic Association. Since that publication, Ronald passed into God’s everlasting care on April 6, 2024.

Last month’s piece generated more positive feedback than any article we have published in BG Insights. So, as a brief follow-up and to wish him a Happy Heavenly Birthday on May 15th, I wanted to share a few life lessons I learned from my father.



The Foundation is always Family – Ronald J. Bordui, was born in 1938 in Detroit. He met my mother, Sharon, in 1958 and they were married in 1961. They had two children – my brother, Scott, and myself. Although we moved away from Detroit when I was six years old, I remember the early years fondly. We often enjoyed backyard picnics; creating memories with my grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins; watching Detroit Lions games on Thanksgiving Day; and playing sports (including the digital innovation of Mattel Electronic Football that came out at this time). The entire time in the Detroit years were focused on sharing time and creating memories with our immediate and extended family. The importance of family was embedded in me all my life and the role of Papa to his four grandchildren became my dad’s s greatest joy in recent times.



The Twin Opportunities of Education and Work – My dad told stories of working full-time in security in the juvenile detention center while putting himself through college. This challenge nearly took down his Grade Point Average, but he was able successfully earn his undergraduate degree. After his undergraduate degree, he worked full-time at General Motors and earned his MBA in Finance and Economics from University of Detroit in 1965. He did all of this while starting a family with my mom. I am so grateful for his efforts as it distilled a tremendous work ethic in me and provided so many wonderful opportunities in my life. To this day, especially as a self-funded entrepreneur; I see working and learning as the twin opportunities to create value and make a difference.



Today is a New Day – For my dad’s final days in April, I stayed across the street from Northwestern Hospital at the Hyatt Centric hotel. In the lobby, was a 12-foot sculpture that said, “TODAY IS A NEW DAY.” I found encouragement at the beginning and end of each day when I walked past these words. The sign embodied the final lesson my dad taught me - to live in the present and let go of the baggage of the past. Life is a gift and may we endeavor to take this sentiment forward and strive to make everyday a great day!



Dedicated to Ronald Joseph Bordui (May 15, 1938 to April 6, 2024) - “We love you Papa!”