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SPECIAL EDITION

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# THE IDEAL ALMANAC

## In Memory of Phyllis Jacobs

*This is a special edition of the Ideal Almanac.*

My mom, Phyllis Jacobs passed away last night, 6/8/2023. She was 94 years old and this is what I plan to say at her funeral:

Good day everyone. I would first like to thank everyone for being here, we appreciate it as I am sure does my Mom. I would next like to thank my brother and sister. They have been awesome especially over the past year and we have worked like a well oiled machine making sure Mom was taken care of. To that I add thanks to her aides Kirn, Christine, Doris, Jen and Elsie and our spouses, children and grandchildren. We all worked hard to make sure she was wrapped in a blanket of love and protection.

My Mom was 94 years when she passed. Our company is 102 years old which meant she was, by far the longest participant. Although she was not directly involved, her influence was felt across time.

I will illustrate it by some examples, please forgive me if you have already heard them.

I was about 8 years old. I had been playing baseball and hurt my finger. Wanting sympathy I complained of the pain, she put a splint on it and I then said I wanted to go back out and play. She said I could have pity or respect not both. If I wanted respect then forget about the pain and keep going, otherwise I could stay inside. I left to play more ball and remembered the lesson the rest of my life.

When my brother and sister left for college my parents and I made a non-spoken deal. I would get good grades, stay out of trouble and try to be

the best person possible. They in turn gave me total freedom which I never abused. Another lesson for the rest of my life.

I wanted to be a television network anchorman. I finished college and got no job, I wasn't as good as I thought I was. I found out decades later that my Mom forced my Dad to hire me. He did not want anyone else in the business after his brother and wanted to be left alone. Later, my Mom decided I was not working hard enough and told my Dad to put me on straight commission. Those two events changed my life. It turned out I was born into a company I loved. My Mom's actions changed all of our lives.

My father did not want my Mom involved directly in the business. However, after my Dad retired we put in a new quality system into our company in the 1990's. I invited my Mom to go to auditing school with me. By the time we finished the people running the class were impressed enough where I was worried they would hire her, but I got her first.

After my Dad passed my Mom and I started talking about business in general and our company in particular. She had a specific viewpoint, often more cautious than mine but still having a rational, global vision which I treasured. It gave me a balance to measure my risks and my actions, as did my wife, which probably stopped me from jumping off the cliff to take even chances more than I did.

She was protective, supportive and loved us all. My Mom was and is wonderful.

Andrew

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