

# THE IDEAL ALMANAC

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## Eulogy for a Very Good Man

Hello everyone and Welcome to the February Edition of the Ideal Almanac.

When I got home last night my wife Wendy gave me a special hug that meant something had happened. The brother of one of my brothers-in-laws, also named Andrew, who had been fighting cancer for years had passed. We were all saddened, but I had a special reason. He was nice, pleasant and never caused any trouble but there was much more to it. God had put him into my life for a reason. I came from a background that had a prejudice towards gay people. I did not know how ingrained it was inside me until I made an unfortunate comment in front of Andrew shortly after I met him in 1984. He then refused to be in my presence and when I found out that I had unintentionally hurt him, I did not know he was gay and that I did it without thinking, sent me into a spiral of self reflection which uncovered some very unpleasant things about myself. Realizing what I had done and what "I was" I immediately apologized, asked him to forgive me, which he graciously did and at his suggestion, we started over. From that moment on, I radically changed my beliefs and behavior not just toward gay people but other groups and it changed my life for the better.

My new philosophy of being nice to

all, tolerance as my base and with the help of my wonderful wife, a new era in my life began. Fast-forward to today and up until the pandemic we regularly saw Andy. We have gotten along well and learning from him over time prepared me for one of the greatest gifts that God had ever given me. Our son Alex, who is gay, is one of the most wonderful people I know. When he "came out", Wendy had prepared me in advance as I did not know, it was not an issue. There were no problems, we have always treated him simply as a person and simply our wonderful son. With-

out having known Andy and going through the realization of how prejudiced I was, I could not have been as prepared for when Alex came out and a process that was seamless and full of love could have been a disaster with irreparable damage. I owe Andy big time, my debt to him was to forever act with the most respect possible to everyone and his legacy will go on for decades.

Read more of Andrew's blogs at:

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/andrewcjacobs/>



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