

Firstly, we thank you for joining our families in this celebration of life for my father.

It was suggested that we ask a business colleague to share some thoughts and experiences involving my father. With the help of my family it was decided that 23 years of working side by side with him qualified me for the honor.

I have spent the last few days trying to pinpoint exactly what attributes made my father successful in business. After much thought I have come to the conclusion that the attributes that led to his success are identical to those that made him a successful husband and father. His integrity was unquestionable, his honesty unparalleled and his faith in God unwavering. My father had a “thundering gentleness” about him that fostered the same respect from others that he felt for them. He truly was a special man, loved by all that knew him.

My father was also quite the handyman. There were very few projects he wouldn't tackle and his workmanship was legendary. No project went unfinished, even if certain parts had to be borrowed from other equipment. So, when I pass the pearly gates, I shall not be surprised to hear St. Peter say: “Charles, the man who was your father on earth maintains these gates. They don't look exactly like they used to, but they work better than they have in ages.