

Today is Father's Day

So God Made a Father

a Poem by May Patterson, Writer & Teacher

At the dawn of time, God looked down on all He had Made and said, "Now, I need a caretaker."

So, God made a father.

God said, "I need someone to teach children to fish, and to ride a bike without training wheels, and to play catch in the backyard. It must be someone who's tough enough to run a chainsaw and wield a machete and yet gentle enough to join his little girl for tea."

So, God made a father.

"I need someone to bring the car around when it's raining, so everyone else can stay dry. Someone who will keep jumper cables in his truck, just in case he needs to help a stranger. I need someone to notice practical things, like how the tread on the tires is wearing and if the weather-stripping around the front door needs replacing, for no one else will."

"I'll create some who's strong enough to open a tightly sealed jelly jar and tall enough to place the angel on top of the Christmas tree. Someone who will be gracious enough to let his son fish the best fishing hole or to let his daughter win at least one hand of gin rummy."

"Yes, he will struggle to find his glasses and keys," God thought. "But I'll help him to find time for important things, like tumbling with the kids in the den floor, or saying 'I'm proud of you son' or giving Mama a hug."

So, God made a father.

God said, "I need someone brave enough to carve the Thanksgiving turkey, for no one else seems to want the job. Someone who's not afraid to go into Grandma's dark cellar, or to check on what goes bump in the night, or to remove the dead mouse from the mousetrap."

So God Made a Father, cont.

"I need someone wise enough to know when to let his child fail. Someone who will pick her up, dry her tears and say, *'Honey, I know you can do it! Give it another try.'*"

"I need someone who listens more than he talks. Who will stand by his family through laughter and tears, tornadoes and snowstorms, good times and bad. **Someone who will love his kids and love their mother even more.**"

So, God made a father.

God said, "I need someone to provide for the family. Someone who will get up early and stay late and never complain. I need someone who's willing to make unpopular decisions and stand by them. Someone to provide authority and discipline, as well as love."

"I need someone with **broad shoulders, broad enough to carry a little child around town and broad enough to pull more than his fair share.** Yes, I need someone who will work the second shift, or take second-best, or play second-fiddle, so that his family can have it better than he did."

"I need someone who is *willing* . . . willing to man up and provide the love, support and strength his family will so desperately need."

So, God made a father.

"Sometimes he will not feel worthy of the love his family gives him. There will be times when he fails to live up to my ideal standard. But when his family needs him, he will show up, or give up, or do whatever needs to be done."

"Yes, that's exactly what I need," thought God as he shook His head. "A father to love my children, and if necessary, to lay down his life for them. Someone . . . *well, someone like Me.*"

So, God made a father.

IN CELEBRATION of FATHERS

Barb Petsel's father



Adolph Beckmann. One of the kindest persons I have ever known. Humble, wise, compassionate, & creative. Had a great sense of humor. Died of a heart attack while I was pregnant w-my 3rd child. I miss him greatly.

Marv Petsel's father



Earnest Milton Petsel. B-1907; D-1988. He was a machinist in a critical industry during WWII & until he retired. He loved to hunt & fish. I was always happy to go with him.

IN CELEBRATION of FATHERS

Rosemary Ellis' father



Tom Ellis. A gentle loving soul & my hero. A pilot, pastor, police officer, talented singer-just a few of the reasons he was admired by all who knew him.

David Johnson's father



Nels Johnson. He taught me reverence: for God, for others, and for nature. He also taught me how to crank homemade ice cream!

IN CELEBRATION of FATHERS

Jerry Roddy's father



Oran L. Roddy. Aptly described by John Conlee's song *The Carpenter*: "Tough as a crowbar; quick as a chisel
Fair as a plane and true as a level
Straight as a chalk line and right as a rule
Square with the world; he took good care of his tools."

Anne Roddy's father



John R. Wood. Service Mgr. at Burroughs Corp for 40 years. He was my hero; I was his Miss America. Scoutmaster. Loved taking us to the Zoo. Once won me 3 baby ducks at the State Fair. Taught me to swim at 2.

IN CELEBRATION of FATHERS

Ken Rorie's father



Kenneth Glen Rorie. History professor, WWII Naval Lt. Commander, UMC Minister, loving son, husband, father and grandfather.

Floy Rorie's father



Lloyd H. Wilcoxon. Identical twin, WWII Navy veteran, Sheetmetal mechanic, loving husband, father and grandfather.

IN CELEBRATION of FATHERS

Sharon Rankin's father



Arthur Edmunds. Served in Europe during WWII as a truck driver. Volunteer fireman & EMT. Worked for PA Railroad until '59 when he followed a call to ministry. Ordained as Elder in '64. Loved serving Christ.

Pat Rankin's father



Bob Rankin. B. 1920 in Muncie, IN. Graduated from Ball State. Was an Army Air Corps pilot in WWII, flying a C47 plane over the Himalayan Mts. Principal for Corpus Christi ISD. Friendly, loved sports.

IN CELEBRATION of FATHERS

Dave Mather's father



Richard Mather. He was an aeronautical engineer who loved the outdoors. I miss him dearly.

Becky Mather's father



Boyd Gillespie. He was a man of few words, but when he spoke you definitely listened.

IN CELEBRATION of FATHERS

Russ Simmonds' father



Earl Simmonds. My father taught me there is gratification in hard work. He was focused, disciplined, meticulous, & would stay w-jobs until completed. He could make friends w-anyone. He loved animals-his son included.

Brenda Simmonds' father



Clyde Aubry Thomas. My father passed when I was 13. I remember him as a loving, proud, & protective father. Even at my early age, he was stressing the importance of a college education for each of his 5 daughters.

IN CELEBRATION of FATHERS

Susan Griffith's father



George Thomas. He was a kind, gentle man whose special expertise was business. His passion, however, was being a grandfather, & he was one of the best.

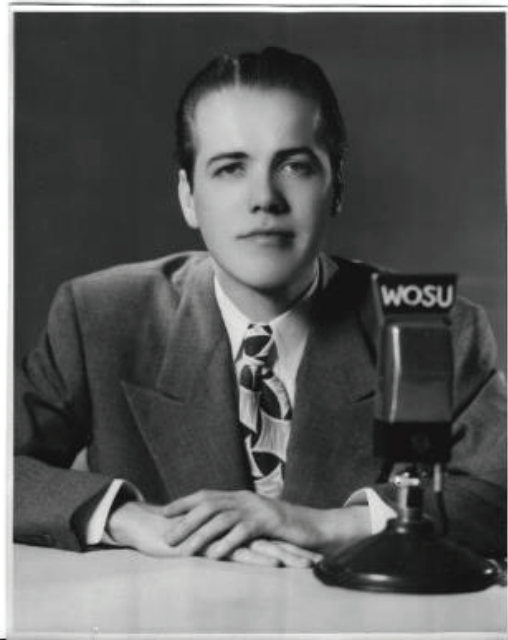
Ford Griffith's father



Sedgie Griffith. Graduated Union College 1933 Phi Beta Kappa. WWII vet. A wonderful role model & Christian. Great golfer & bridge player. We repeat his sayings all the time.

IN CELEBRATION of FATHERS

Nelson Cain's father



James Nelson Cain. Loved classical music. At 18, founded concert series in Columbus, OH; Dir. of Aspen Music Fest; Manager STL Symphony Orch. Helped create Mississippi River Fest; VP, STL Conservatory & Sch. for the Arts, founded Whitaker Competition.

Carol Cain's father



George Grady Gresham. Worked on the R.R. in WWII in Memphis, TN. Inspector for Missouri Dept. of Agric. for 20 yrs. Festus City Councilman. Elder, Grace Presby. Church; Loved Inter. travel.

IN CELEBRATION of FATHERS

Elaine Riggs' father



Virgil Scher. Loving father to 8 children. A person of strong religious belief. Often commented on how fortunate & blessed he was to "have 160 healthy fingers & toes". He was an excellent provider & loved to tell jokes.

Mary Dell Green's father



Richard Marion Everts. 1907-1985. I am grateful that my Dad instilled 3 character traits in me: a sense of humor, an optimistic outlook on life and a love of music.

IN CELEBRATION of FATHERS

Peggy Blake's father



Ovie Vernon Fulbright. 1920-1995. He was a Houston police officer for 30 years. Photo is when he graduated from the Police Academy in '51. A gentle warrior, very tender hearted & caring.

Thom Blake's father



Forest Leroy Blake Sr. 1908- 1991. He grew up farming w-Belgian horses under the yoke of an abusive father. Despite this, he was a gentle & kind man who taught by example how to be a great father.

IN CELEBRATION of FATHERS

Jim Alexander's father



Ray Alexander. Cotton & grain farmer. Loved to salt-water fish in a boat he made himself. Pushed education; valued common sense. Shown holding my clay sculpture of him on his tractor.

Chris Alexander's father



Mark Strelczyk. He was a WWII Army veteran and later had a career in the aircraft industry. My Dad gave me unconditional love.

IN CELEBRATION of FATHERS

Jan Etheridge's father



Lewis McHenry was a humble man who lived what he believed. A favorite memory: in a single's Sunday School class the men were asked to define friendship. My Dad's response, "Jesus is my best friend."

Richard Etheridge's father



Richard Etheridge, Sr. (Center) He was Chief Engineer, USS Grayson at Guadalcanal. Taught many farmers in SE Virginia better farming methods. A great Dad to go fishing with.

IN CELEBRATION of FATHERS

Gary Wills' father



Gerald Wills. Adventurous. Loved Sci-fi. At 16 joined Merchant Marine, worked the Great Lakes, crewed on Atlantic-crossing tugboat to Italy. Met mom in Germany. 30 yr. Army career. Served in WWII, Korea, & Vietnam. Retired as Command Sergeant Major.

Carol Wills' father



Virgil Robinson. Born in GA, youngest of 6. After 2 yrs. of college, joined the Army. After OCS, met Mom (a WAC nurse) in Japan. They married '46. Retired after 20 yrs.; then onto Civil Service at White Sands Missile Range. Loved football; refereed.

IN CELEBRATION of FATHERS

Anne Crutchfield's father



Cleatus Lebow. He was a great father because he was always happy and joking around. He survived the sinking of the USS Indianapolis and today is one of eight survivors still living.

Roy Crutchfield's neighbor



Coleman Molnar, male influence. I was raised by a single mom. I spent many hours in my neighbor's shop learning about tools, life & how to hunt and fish. My son is named Coleman.

IN CELEBRATION of FATHERS

Vic Morin's father



Raymond Victor Morin. He was very active in his Baptist church & its missions, The Optimist Club, enjoyed "clowning" with children & the elderly while always wearing full face make-up.

Barbara Wheat's father



Charles Law Zwick. My dad continued in the family business - a small clothing and dry goods store in Oxford, Ohio, a college town. His hobby was growing shrubs from seedlings.

IN CELEBRATION of FATHERS

Joci James' father



David Alvin James. 1889-1968. Born in Proctor, Texas. Father of five including me. Had to quit school in third grade to work on farm. Barber by trade, earned 25 cents a haircut during Great Depression in 1930.

Prissy Wisnewski's father



Harold Dayton. Dad has been by my side to teach & encourage me all my life. He was my role model for what a husband & father should be. At 88, I still look to him for advice & comfort.

IN CELEBRATION of FATHERS

Betty Estill's father



Billy and Joe Bryan. My father was a strong Christian man who loved his family and that of his twin brother.

John Estill's father



William H Estill. A strong Christian man who raised three children and endured the subsequent deaths of two wives.

IN CELEBRATION of FATHERS

Larraine Lewis' father



Wilbur Bussell. He was a loving father that I lost way too early, when I was only 26. He taught me to value education.

Larraine Lewis' uncle



Ewell Camp Jr. He became like a father to me after my dad died & taught me to thank God for every beautiful day of life.

IN CELEBRATION of FATHERS

David Lewis' father



O.D. Lewis. He taught me the Golden Rule: Do unto others as you would have them do to you.

Cherry Sims' father



Carthel G. Lewis. (Right) Farmer from dawn to dusk; the best in the county. Daddy was gentle, wrote beautiful letters and played the piano. I never doubted his love for us.