

Two fish were in a tank. One of them turned to the other and asked, “Do you know how to drive this thing?”

Besides dad jokes, my dad had many interests, many of which have been mentioned already. One of my dad’s interests was music. He enjoyed all kinds of different music, though not all music. My dad and I liked a lot of the same music, and we didn’t like a lot of the same music. But he did enjoy at least one of my favorite musical artists. One time, this artist had scheduled a concert in Greenville and a few weeks before the concert, they did an interview on a local radio station. Well, on his way to work my dad heard the interview on the radio and immediately called me on my way to work to make sure I was able to tune in to listen to it. Afterwards, he asked if I was planning on going to the concert. I told him James and I wanted to go to the concert, but at the time we didn’t have a whole lot of expendable income to spend on things such as concert tickets. My dad wanted to make sure I got to go, though, and offered to pay for one of our tickets. And because of that we got to go to the concert. It wasn’t a huge thing monetarily, and it wouldn’t have been a huge deal if we hadn’t gotten to go, but it still meant a lot to me that he did that. That was just like my dad to do, though - he made sure I heard the interview and made sure I got to go to the concert. He was always thinking about others, and he always let you know he was thinking about you. It’s something that I aspire to do, to think about others often and to let them know I’m thinking about them. My dad was an example to me in this way, and in a lot of other ways.

This memory, and all memories that my siblings and I have shared today are just a small sample of the many wonderful memories we have had with him. I’m sure we could go on for hours with these memories. I hope that most of you attending today have at least one or two “Van-tastic” memories of my dad. If you ever want to share those memories with any of his family, we would love to hear them. I hope that you can think about these memories and think about my dad and the type of person he was. I hope, through our memories of him, he can continue to be an example to all of us in so many different ways. We really appreciate all of you coming today.

One thing that my dad lamented about was not giving my siblings and I certain experiences growing up, like having a red Radio Flyer wagon or going to Disney World. I speak on behalf of all my siblings when I say we didn't feel slighted at all, but sometimes we would still pick on my dad, jokingly saying he ruined our childhood. Well, my parents planned a trip to Florida when I was 17. Since I was the only one still living at home, it was just the three of us that went on this trip. Being a teenager, I wasn't super excited about going on this trip with just my parents. But I had a really good time with them. We went to St. Augustine and Cape Canaveral, to Miami to see his sister that he hadn't seen in years, to Key Largo to go snorkeling, through Big Cypress National Preserve (where we saw lots of alligators and maybe a jaguar too), and to Tampa to see my niece. On this trip, my dad offered to take me to Disney World, since he ruined my childhood by not taking me before this. But as a 17 year old, I of course thought it would be lame to go with my parents to Disney World, so I declined his offer. He wouldn't let me pick on him about not going to Disney World again after that. Regardless of not going to Disney World, I loved that experience and all the experiences I did get to have with my dad because they were all so special. I wouldn't trade the time I got with him for anything in the world.