

## Dad Said...

**Jeffrey and J.R. Anderson***Jeffrey Anderson Real Estate**J.R. Anderson, Vice-President of Development***Best Advice**

"My dad was not big on giving advice," J.R. says. "His approach was: 'If you think this is right and what you want to do it, go do it.'"

"This isn't really advice, but it is something I have always been thankful for. When I was a senior in high school, we were going all over the country looking at colleges: Duke, North Carolina, all the ACC (Atlantic Coast Conference) schools...and the California schools like Stanford.

"I had narrowed the list down and he said, 'J.R. you can go any place in the country you want to go, but if you go to the University of Virginia, I'll pay for it.' Well, of course, that's where I went. I'm glad I listened to dad. It was great. I loved everything about it and he told me I would. Besides meeting my wife, Kadi, there, UVA provided me with the education and experience to land my first job (in New York as an investment banker). I don't think I would be where I am today if I had not listened to dad."

**Advice Not Taken**

"Honestly, there really wasn't any. As I said, he didn't offer much advice," J.R. says, "and when he did it was always so well thought out and so solid, that I listened to what he had to say and still do. Whenever he gives advice, I follow it."

**Jeffrey Anderson***President***Best Advice**

In many ways, Jeffrey Anderson has treated his son the way he was treated by his father, Bob. "My father always said, 'No matter what happens, I want you to know that I support you and I will never ask for anything in return.' My grandfather (Fred Anderson) was the same way...I think that feeling of support and security has guided me through life and in business. There was such an emphasis in our family on doing things with integrity, doing things the right way."

**Advice He Wishes J.R. Would Heed**

"I would like to see J.R. work a little less," Anderson says. "He is so devoted and so capable. You ask him a question and he is all over it in the next five minutes. I wish he would take the success he's had and relish it, enjoy life—keep things in perspective."

"J.R. you can go any place in the country you want to go, but if you go to the University of Virginia, I'll pay for it."

—J.R. Anderson, advice taken

**John Burlew***Presiding Judge Hamilton County Municipal Court***Best Advice**

"I think about the importance of what my parents taught me all the time," Burlew says, "especially in court when some of these kids come before me. I was very fortunate to have loving, caring parents.

"Best advice? You've heard the old expression, 'You can lead a horse to water, but you can't make him drink.' My father had a variant on that: 'You can send a fool to school, but you can't make him think.' His point was that there is a vast difference between wisdom and intelligence. In our lifetimes, we have all come across intelligent people who do not make wise decisions.

"There were so many things he said...But another I remember quite well was something he would say when someone would criticize the type of work someone was doing—if they dug ditches, did something undesirable. He would say, 'There is no dishonorable thing about work.' That's something I think about all the time.

"I can't leave my mother out of this...There was something she said that I hold dearly because it is so true. She said, 'There is nothing more fulfilling than seeing one of your children exercise a value that is important to you.'"

**Friends and Fathers**

And so we celebrate and recognize the importance of our father's, their words and actions. Often the imprint is indelible.

I closed this piece with the thoughts of John Burlew with purpose. Judge Burlew and I first met a lifetime ago at Hanover College. John and I were from two different worlds. He was an African-American from Cincinnati, a smooth city guy. I was a white, cocky, rough-edged kid, from the wide, flat pastures of Southern Indiana.

Yet, we became friends, good friends. He tutored me for weeks in basic economics, guiding me from barely passing to B+.

Today, when John and I talk—which, unfortunately, is not as often as we should—the discussion is about what we have done, the decisions we have made, good and bad, our remaining dreams and our dreams and hopes for our children. We talk about our fathers, our mothers and family—all those who launched our lives. We talk about gratitude and thanks

Not long ago we were talking on the phone, demands impinging on our time and conversation. He was laughing that heavy, hearty, laugh that is his alone. "I got to go," he said, "but the good thing is we have good memories and memories we have learned from."

He was right. I hung up the phone thinking about my dad, gone since 1995. Then, I thought of something my dad had said, "Have a care, damn-it, and make sure you remember—everyone and everything."

Russ Hoard was a man with an eighth-grade education, five battle-stars from World War II, a Silver Star for bravery earned on D-Day. He drove a truck. We didn't talk much but when we did, it was mostly good and we had a laugh. I do remember and I will. It is good advice for Father's Day, good advice for every day.