

INTRODUCTION

This is a story with a happy ending, a tale of strength and honor, of a man who constantly gave everything of himself for the betterment of others, and who always pushed himself beyond the limits of what others would think possible. This is the story of my father, who was and still is a dreamer; of his tireless efforts to provide for those he loved; of his triumphs and misfortunes; and of his mistakes and good deeds.

As I write this, I am thirty-three years of age, and my father, Frank, is eighty-two. He has lived what many would call a full life, yet it is not an average ordinary full life by any means, but more like three to five lives all in one lifespan with many peaks and valleys in between. Currently Frank is retired—I use this term loosely, because he still shows no signs of slowing down. He works out at the gym three days a week for three hours at a time and is constantly working on new building projects around the house. Frank has lived through a world war, poverty, language barriers, quintuple bypass heart surgery, a nervous breakdown, and forty-seven places of residence in three countries. Frank is a brother, husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and has worked as a carpenter, bricklayer, roofer, labor foreman, supervisor, consultant, contractor, superintendent, general superintendent, and vice president of one of the largest construction companies in North America.

I chose to write the story of my father's life for a number of reasons, but the one I feel is most profound is that he never quit no matter what the circumstance. Even on a number of occasions, when faced with his own mortality,

my father would stay true to what he knew was morally right and rise above the problem at hand. He is always honest and true to his word. If he says something, you can be sure he will do it, which sometimes has put him in a difficult situation, but he would push through nonetheless.

I've asked my dad, "If you had to live your life over again, would you do all the things you did the same way?"

His answer: "I'm happy I lived through my life, but I would never want to do it again."

It is this statement that makes it so important to tell my father's story, so that if you have to live through similar heartache and tough times, you may learn the lessons he has learned and gain insights on a unique life story that is worth telling.

I can honestly say I have learned a lot from him, and because of him I have had a life of privilege, love, and ease. His life, however, was more or less the opposite. Having known my father for only thirty-three years though, means that he has lived forty-nine years without my existence. I am told he was a very different man than the one I have come to know and love today, as through his life experiences he has learned and grown just like all the rest of us.

This book was created from stories I've heard many times, from interviews I've had with my dad and other family members, and from the powers of the supernatural, which guide me through every work of writing I have created. I know that my efforts here are for the good of many, and it is my goal to provide you, the reader, with an accurate and insightful story of what my father endured to give our family and future generations a life of comfort, love, and freedom.