

* A Message From the CEO *

On Mothers Day, A Fable, Lesson

by John Hawkins President and CEO, The Club

Hi everyone! Happy Mother's Day!

Normally I go through and highlight all the great stories that we're bringing you this month - let me give a quick thanks to Wade and Dustin Taylor, Jason Olin and Chris Plakos of the DWP, for the Snow Surveyors story; and everyone, come on down to the new Club Store and Service Center!

But this month, I want to pass on a story about mothers I received in my email. If anyone can let me know who wrote this, I would appreciate it.

After 21 years of marriage, my wife wanted me to take another woman out to dinner and a movie.

My wife said, "I love you, but I know this other woman loves you and would love to spend some time with you."

The other woman that my wife wanted me to visit was my mother, who has been a widow for 19 years. The demands of my work and my three children had made it possible to visit her only occasionally.

That night I called to invite her to go out for dinner and a movie.

"What's wrong, are you well?" she asked. My mother is the type of woman who suspects that a late-night call or a surprise invitation is a sign of bad news.

"I thought that it would be pleasant to spend some time with you," I responded. "Just the two of us."

She thought about it for a moment, and then said, "I would like that very much."

That Friday after work, as I drove over to pick her up I was a bit nervous. When I arrived at her house, I noticed that she, too, seemed to be nervous about our date. She waited in the door with her coat on. She had curled her hair and was wearing the dress that she had worn to celebrate her last wedding anniversary.

She smiled from a face that was as radiant as an angel's.

"I told my friends that I was going to go out with my son, and they were impressed," she said as she got into the car.

"They can't wait to hear about our meeting."

We went to a restaurant that, although not elegant, was very nice and cozy. My mother took my arm as if she were the First Lady.

After we sat down, I had to read the menu. Her eyes could only read large print. Halfway through the entries, I lifted my eyes and saw Mother sitting there staring at me. A nostalgic smile was on her lips.

"It was I who used to have to read the menu when you were small," she said.

"Then it's time that you relax and let me return the favor," I responded.

During the dinner, we had an agreeable conversation -- nothing extraordinary, but we caught up on recent events of each other's life. We talked so much that we missed the movie.

As we arrived at her house later, she said, "I'll go out with you again, but only if you let me invite you." I agreed.

"How was your dinner date?" my wife asked when I got home.

"Very nice, much more so than I could have imagined," I answered.

A few days later, my mother died of a massive heart attack. It happened so suddenly that I didn't have a chance to do anything for her.

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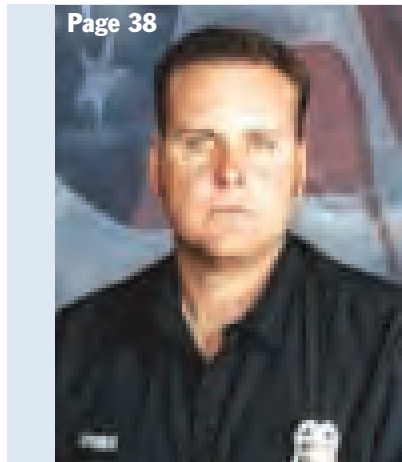
Firefighter Brent Lovrien dies in line of duty after explosion near LAX.

43 Club Scholarship

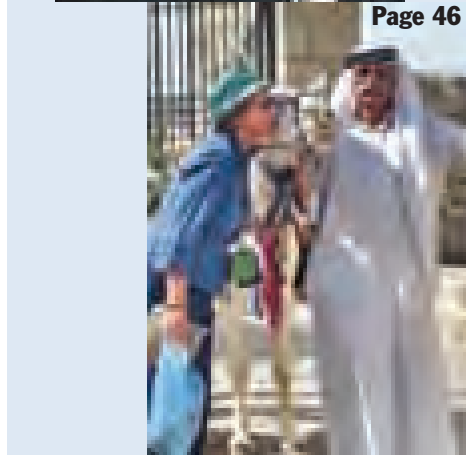
Applications are now available online for the Club's annual Scholarship.

46 Moms and more Moms!

Club Members pay tribute for Mother's Day.



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