



FROM THE DESK OF BRENDON BURCHARD

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“One of the top motivation and marketing trainers in the world.” —Larry King

Interviewing Your Loved Ones

In 2009, I lost my dad to acute myeloid leukemia.

I'm lucky to remember his message to us, imparted by his humble and simple example throughout his life, but also because I interviewed him in the weeks prior to his passing. (From diagnosis to death we had just 59 days with him).

I asked Dad what he wanted us to do and know after he was gone, and his words inspire me to this day. He wanted us to take care of our mom. And we do. He wanted us to love one another. And we do. He also said that the secret to a good life was to

“Be yourself. Be honest. Do your best. Take care of your family.
Treat people with respect. Be a good citizen. Follow your dreams.”

That, I think, tells you everything you need to know about the man. His dedication to others spoke for itself, too. 20 years in the Marines with three tours in Vietnam. 20 years with the State of Montana. 34 years, it would have been the year he passed, with Mom. 69 years as a very good man. He was hard on us when we were young and then he became sort of a big bellied buddha in the last decade or so of his life, so loving, so thoughtful, just a simple man who loved golf and racquetball and bowling and football and mom's food and his country and each of us.

If you are blessed to have a good parent or caregiver and a good connection with them, I encourage you to interview them about his life, and to record the conversation. (And if you don't know them well or have a great connection, perhaps an interview could help).

On the following pages are some questions you might ask. I hope these help you get to know your loved ones even better, that the recordings connect you to them should he ever pass away, and serve to share their message with your children and future generations.

In honor of my dad, I hope that you get to know your loved ones even better.

With love,

Brendon

INTERVIEW SOMEONE YOU LOVE ABOUT LIFE

Questions by Brendon Burchard, author of *Life's Golden Ticket*

1. What comes to mind when you think about growing up in [hometown]?

2. What did you love to do as a kid, before high school?

3. What did you love to do in high school?

4. What do remember most about your teenage years?

5. What do you remember most about your mom (grandma)?

6. What was most important to her?

7. What do you remember most about your dad (grandpa)?

8. What was most important to him?

9. If grandma and grandpa had a message to you and their grandchildren, what do you think it is?

10. How did you meet [spouse] and know (s)he was the one?

11. How did you choose your career and what was your favorite part about it?

12. What made you successful at work?

13. What did you believe about yourself that helped you become successful and deal with hard times?

14. What times in your life truly "tested your mettle," and what did you learn about yourself by dealing (or not dealing) with them?

15. What three events most shaped your life?

16. What do you remember about when each of us was born?

17. Were you ever scared to be a parent?

18. What three words would you say represented your approach to parenting and why?

19. When you think about [sibling] how would you describe him?

20. What message do you have for [sibling] that you want him to always keep in mind?

[Do the last two questions above for *each sibling* in your family]

21. When you think about [spouse], how would you describe her/him?

22. What message do you have for [spouse] that you want her/him to always keep in mind?

23. What three words would you say best describe who you tried to be in life and how you want to be remembered?

24. When they think about their careers, what do you want your children to focus on?

25. What have you learned about other people in life? (trustworthy, kind or not and mean)?

26. What do you think the world needs more of right now?

27. What do you believe people want the most in life?

28. What were the three best decisions you've ever made?

29. What are you most proud of in life?

30. What were five of the most positive moments of your life?

31. What message would you like to share with your family?

32. What are you most thankful for?