

80th Birthday - William Allen Zulker
December 20, 1926 - 2006



William Allen Zulker
In Our Words
On this very special occasion of his 80th birthday
December 20, 2006

At the Birthday Party, I was given a small photograph album - 6"x5"- that held numerous hand-written comments made by various members of the family. They were left unsigned so that I would have to guess who wrote them. I'm still trying. I am sure, however, that the first one was written by Isabel. Here they are:

"To me, every hour of the light and dark is a miracle. Every square inch of space is a miracle."- Walt Whitman

This could very well be written by Bill Zulker - he so much appreciates a beautiful sunset, a full moon, green grass, a corn field, all of God's beautiful earth is impressive to him.

*

When I think of Pop, I think of someone who knows a lot about a lot of things.

*

I recall the first time my father-in-law sat in and had lunch at a McDonald's with his grandson. I knew then that he was a real Pop Pop.

*

Some of my favorite childhood memories with Dad are - walking down the aisle with him after his sermon; trips to Pea Patch Island; ice-skating on the patio-rink in Glenmoore; early morning rides on the boardwalk in Ocean City; the many camping trips; and always feeling his love.

*

I love the memories of many meals shared with "Dad's special students" - the international students, or those who lived farther away and were always invited to share our home, cook a special meal or just come and earn a few extra dollars painting a porch or washing windows!

*

I love you, Bill. Have a wonderful 80th birthday. Enjoy, enjoy, enjoy!

*

One of my favorite and most frequent memories of Pop-pop was when he would preach at Faith church as a guest speaker. We would all get dressed up and sit in the front of the church (or close to it) and Pop-pop would inevitably mention his family during his sermon. I would sit there, bright red, but incredibly proud because now everyone in the church knew this wise, funny, and of course good-looking :) man was my grandfather - Pop-pop! - and I was certain they were jealous!

*

Dad loves to walk, I will never forget taking walks with him around town, he was careful if cars would come near us. He said to me one time as we were walking, "You stay on the inside, I will be on the outside. Like silverware, I will be the spoon, you be the knife (against the plate)." I always chuckle when I think of that to this day, when I am walking!

*

Dad you are a true example of a man with unfaltering faith in God and unconditional love for his family.

*

I really enjoy seeing several different things with Pop-pop.

1. Tony Campolo preaching.
2. Dave Stahl concerts.
3. Franklin Institute exhibits.
4. Germany (organ concerts in Rothenburg).
5. The Richland countryside (after a cup of coffee from Hess).

*

I am thankful for him in many of ways.

- Someone to look up to
- Things you have taught me.
- And many more.

*

When I think of Pop, I think of someone I can go to for advice.

*

I think I'm the only one in the family who will always know how old Pop-pop is...exactly 60 years older than me! How lucky I've been to share my birthday celebrations with him. Who could ever forget the time our candles caught his sweater sleeve on fire?! Happy Birthday! We made it to 100! :)

*

I was just a high school student when I first met your Dad or Pop-pop. He was the Director of Youth For Christ in Trenton, New Jersey. Our youth group attended the meetings and one night after it was over he came to me and asked me out. I said "no" that first night, but now 60 years later, with three of the world's best daughters and nine of the world's greatest grandchildren, we're enjoying life as never before. Not all is perfect but I can safely say, "God has been sooooo good to us."

*

I remember "The drawer", you never knew what you'd find in there! I got a great pair of socks once, and some kind of travel clock thing. I just remember it being like a treasure chest of weird stuff that were all real treasures to us kids.

*

I love him for moving next door to us in Richland!

*

I am extremely thankful to Pop-pop for his support (in all ways) with my education. His support was/is instrumental in my college education. Eastern University would not have been possible without him.

*

I'll never forget the only time that I have ever been upset with Pop-pop. I had been designated "navigator" during our two week stay in Germany. One particular day, he would not listen to any of my directions. I gave up, threw the map on the floor of the car and went to sleep. I woke up just as we crossed the border into Italy. I suddenly realized his reason for being so uncooperative. What a wonderful surprise!

*

I love him for being my Grandfather!

*

When I travel I think of you.

*

I will always remember working with Pop-pop around his house on Poplar Ave. Looking back, I think of it as invaluable time spent with my grandfather. And not only did it help teach me hard work, but what other jobs teach you, landscaping, painting, carpentry, masonry, etc...plus at the end of the day we'd get an amazing dinner!

*

I remember when Pop-pop took us to the zoo in Philadelphia, I think he was trying to be the strangest person there???

*

I remember the stories you tell. Even the ones that are made up.

*

3/22/77

I can recall the patient's father outside the car yelling at the police while I was in the car under a blanket with his daughter.

*

I am grateful that he was always there for me.

*

Remember Sunday afternoon's when the daughter's were young and you finished preaching and took us to Philadelphia to see the sights? They always turned out to be fun times, but most times it seemed as if we all said we wanted to go home instead of spending the day out. Oh well, life goes on!

*

Don't wave at the flies.

*

When I think of Pop-pop I immediately think of our trips to Germany! These are some of my favorite times of my life.

*

When I think of Pop, I think of someone I can ask spiritual questions and get answers I can trust.

*

Wenn ich uber Pop-pop nachdenke, denke ich uber jemandem nach, den ich hoffe, irgendwann wie es zu sein.

*

Dad - the first man I ever loved.

*

When I think of him I think of working on a 1926 Chevrolet Sedan. Spending time trying to figure out the parts of the engine and replacing wires for the horn and headlights.

*

My dad taught me from a very young age to always nod or say hello to people. Even if you don't know them you should smile, nod, wave, anything. Most people these days have no time for strangers or neighbors, but my dad always has the time!

*

I love when Pop-pop tells a joke and right as he gets to the punch line he gets that big grin on his face, like a kid who knows he is doing something he shouldn't be doing.

*

Every time I pass the street vendor outside the courthouse in Media I think of Pop-pop and how he loves getting hotdogs and pretzels from the street vendors in the city.

*

I love all the times that he has taken me flying. In a Cap10, Piper Cherokee 140, and on a Lufthansa airplane.

*

I'll never forget the best hotdog I've ever eaten. I ate it on the steps of the Franklin Institute, sitting next to the greatest grandfather in the world.

*

I remember on many, many, many occasion feeling this overwhelming sense of pride and thinking that's my dad. I guarantee on December 17, 2006 the day we celebrate his 80th birthday will be one of those occasions, so I'll say it now. I'm so proud to call you Dad!

*

Any question you ask, Dad can answer it! He rarely says, "I don't know". If we were driving somewhere and you pass a field and ask what's growing there, Dad would know! Or, "See that smoke over there? That's ..." or, "Dad what's that person doing?" "Oh they're..." He always has an answer! Who knows if he was always correct, but who cares? I never doubted his answers! He's my dad!!

*

I remember the super Sunday's in Philadelphia when Jimmy and Lisa were young, we had to check out each balloon as it was inflated, but we always ended up near the women reporters. Who was that pretty lady?

*

I'll never forget my time in Germany with Pop-pop and Goggy. On the day we visited Worms Cathedral he spotted a parking space just to our right and didn't hesitate to swing the car in that direction and pull right in. In fact, he was so eager to grab that space that he ran over not just a curb, but an entire sidewalk! When astonished and laughing we asked him why he hadn't just used the entrance, he told us that he didn't even realize the

sidewalk was there. That was just one day of a two week trip filled with laughter and wonderful memories!

*

I loved the quiet afternoons spend working and reading at the bookstore, but the best thing about it was that the book store was so Pop-pop! Everything about it reminded me of him. The sounds of classical music, the smell of books and coffee...everything was Pop-pop!

*

Bill, thanks for all your love and encouragement these last three months, I couldn't have made it without you!

*

I'm glad we decided to come here for your birthday dinner (Willow Valley!). I remember way back 35-36 years ago when we first found out about this place. We both loved to come here, for an overnight, for dinner and even for that great 50th wedding anniversary weekend with the family. Will you take me back for our 57th?

*

I remember the time in Germany when we had been awake for 36 hours and he had me trying to figure out where we were on the map and I could barely see from being so tired. So we drove around the city of Mainz. Three times around the same loop until we finally figured out the way to our hotel. It wasn't funny at the time, but it is now.

*

Oh, the depth of the riches both of wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways!

*

I will never forget the time we were in an Italian restaurant in Germany. I was appalled when Pop-pop asked our waitress to meet him back at his hotel room that night.

*

I'm thankful for the special bond between Pop-pop and his grandchildren. I'm also thankful for the special bond that I have with my father-in-law. Thanks Dad, I love you.

*

I remember being a child and going to Philly, or Washington DC, or NYC with Pop-pop to visit a museum or go to a show. He always seemed larger than life, never afraid, always knowing where to go, and of course talking to everyone! And during my favorite part of the day we would stop for something to eat, not at a fancy restaurant, but at a stand on the sidewalk for a Philly pretzel, a Pepsi, and a hot dog...mmmm!

*

When I think of Pop-pop I think of books, books, and more books.

*

I remember when Pop-pop went with me to the circus and spoiled me.

*

What's it like living with an 80 year old man? Well it takes a lot on my part to keep up with him right now. He has never liked to sit still, whether we're in Richland, Wayne or Germany, it's always go-go-go. But think of all I would have missed if I had married someone else, terrible thought!!

*

I love when Dad gets excited about a new project (Wanamaker, book store, flying, and even way back to Oliver Wendell Holmes) and reads and learns all he can and then can't stop talking about it to everyone! Now I know why I'm so interested in so many things!

*

Hoch soll er leben, hoch soll er leben, drei mall hoch!

*

My hat is off to anyone who can get up and speak in front of a crowd. Bill is one of those people.

*

I could never write all the things I have to say when I think of Pop-pop, even if I had stacks and stacks of there papers.

*

When I think of him I think of how grateful I am for him and how much I love him.

*

I remember the football game in the field next to our house in Glen Moore and a stumble, fall and hurt ankle, just to be out doing something with his girls and friends of the family.

*

I remember all the good times at:
-Bird-N-Hand Motor Lodge
-Willow Valley
-Morgantown Holiday Inn
-Watson's Regency

*

Dad, you have a thread hanging.

*

I remember the best part of Germany was that Pop-pop fell in love with the lady who was on the radio thing that directed the car.

*

"They say genes skip generations. Maybe that's why grandchildren find their grandparents so likeable."

-Joan McIntosh

*

I remember bunnies, baby chickens (In Glen Moore), dog after dog (Pepper, Boots, Sandy, Hercules), and cat after cat, rats, hamsters and mice and lots of care needed for all of them. And then finding out recently that my dad doesn't feel real comfortable around dogs!

*

My favorite memory with Pop-pop...
As a small child laying in his back yard (@134), near the garage and looking for "pictures" in the clouds. We would often see animals and bugs...(The early scientist in me?)

*

I thank the Good Lord for His protective hand over you and all of us. I remember hearing the news when you fell from the ladder. I remember when your sweater caught fire. Praise God for His healing power and protection.

*

Dad, you instilled in me the work ethics I have today. I just don't remember which made the biggest impression, stuffing envelopes at Eastern College, or making sure the shelves looked full at the Village Market.

*

At least I know one person in the family supports my desire to move to Germany.

*

I'll never forget hearing that you would only come and visit us once a year. I'm sure glad you changed your mind, I love having you on our street!

Love,
Beth

*

I am the only grandson of William Allen Zulker that gets to share his grandfather's name. Not only am I proud to be his name sake, but I am even more proud to be his grandson.

*

When I think of my dad, I think of the man of God who listens for that "still small voice" and then sets out to accomplish what God places on his heart. Whether it is a goal (owning a bookstore, writing a book), or gift (buying a pony, finding a field for her, having an apartment ready for a grandson!).

*

He's never too busy. Each time I was in the hospital having a baby Dad would visit each day. It might be a short visit, but every day he was there. He's never too busy to make a phone call to someone in need, it might be a short call, but it was a call! Or a little note of encouragement to someone. A small gesture goes a long way. You never know how much it means to someone!

*

I could never get tired of listening to Pop-pop's stories. Stories of childhood, the Army, church, work, the book...etc. Not only has he done so much, but he learns and takes something from every experience. It's something I admire most about him. He takes time to smell the roses, but he also plants them, waters them, watches them grow, and can tell you exactly why they smell so good. Haven't you ever seen his gardens?

*

Der apfel fallt nicht weit vom baum. Like Grandfather, Like Granddaughter.

*

I love reading the Christmas poems you write every year.

*

I will never forget our trip to Germany. One of the many highlights was our evening at the opera house in Wiesbaden Germany. We were king and queen that night.

*

Dad,
Generous, loving, godly, giving, a gentleman, strong, handsome, confident. I love you!

*

Remember the night we slept out under the stars, just Daddy and Beth, and you sensed a skunk. We scrambled out of that campsite in a hurry!

*

Happy birthday Dad, 80 years, wow you sure are special. I love you! Love, Beth.

*

I've learned from Pop-pop from the many times that I've ridden in the car with him that even if you aren't quite sure where you are, you're not lost, you've just discovered a new place. Pop-pop has taught me to be observant and to constantly be willing to learn.

*

To this day I cannot figure out how Dad got his name, William Allen Zulker, on our plot plan for 106 William Maker Way. But then again I believe my dad can do anything!

*

I remember the many trips through New England following Turning Point, and how many times you ended up in the Booth Bay Harbor. I hope someday we will stay there for a weekend and maybe uncover the attraction it had for you!

*

Thanks for the dark hair and good looks!

*

"Don't worry, we're not lost, we're just taking the scenic route!"

*

Clear skies, smooth flying! Cap-10.

*

After experiencing so many of Pop-pop's sermons and speaking engagements, I've realized how lucky I am to have him as my grandfather. He has crowds of people giving him their full attention, so anxious to hear the next thought he has to share. And I get to sit in the car with him, across the table from him, next to him on the couch, by his side walking through Philadelphia. This man that so many people go to hear even for an hour, I get to talk to one on one, and he's always willing to talk.

*

Mr. Zulker,
You are proof to me that it is never to late to learn something new.

*

I an very thankful to have met and known you. -Jeff

*

When I think of Pop-pop I can't help but think of Goggy too! The world's greatest "Housewife" and the best grandmother anyone could ever hope for. Great choice Pop!

*

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God which surpasses all comprehension shall guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus!

Philippians 4:6-7

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How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, nor stand in the path of sinners, nor sit in the seat of scoffers. But his delight is in the law of the

Lord, and in His law he meditates day and night. And he will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water which yields its fruit in its season and its leaf does not wither; and in whatever he does, he prospers!

Psalm 1:1-3

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Thanks, Dad, for all you have done and given to us all our lives, especially for giving us the best mom and the best Goggy in the world!!

*

Wherever life takes us in the next few years (and lets face it, there can't be as many left as we've had), I'll let you lead me and take me with you. I know "All things work together for good to them that love the Lord," and I've learned to "be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

*

The Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace!

Numbers 6:24-26

END