

Jacob Monastero

Mr. Bower

Family Living

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Penpal Interview

1. Can you tell me about someone who had a big influence on your life? What lessons did they teach you?

He is 87 years old and was born during the depression. His grandfather was a union organizer and worked in his teens. He worked hard and with dignity. He retired in his 70s. Ron learned what your work ethic should look like and humility from his grandfather. Ron was raised by a single mother. Her mother later married and Ron had a stepfather. His stepfather taught him to “get off his butt and work” as Ron said. I think these two lessons are very important in our lives. Your work ethic and motivation says a lot about who you are as a person.

2. Can you tell me about one of your happiest memories?

Some of the happiest moments of his life were when he got married, when he graduated from college, the birth of his first son, the birth of great granddaughter, and when he gets his COVID vaccine.

3. What are you most grateful for in your life?

To be able to find someone like his wife. They have been together for 61 years. He also said that there are so many things to be grateful for, this is just the one that he is most grateful for.

4. What are some of the most important lessons you've learned in life?

The most important lesson is to be honest with everyone. Honesty and integrity are extremely important. They say a lot about who you are as a person. Working hard and staying positive are another two lessons that stood out to him.

5. What are you proudest of in your life?

Most proud of graduating from Penn state with a degree in electrical engineering, serving in the Air Force, serving in the church, and his family

6. Do you have any regrets?

Regret being washed out of flight training in the Air Force. Other than that he had a good life. Maybe if he got into flight training he would have never met his wife.

7. How has your life been different than what you imagined it?

He never imagined to be as successful as he has. He was successful in the RCA as an electrical engineer.

What personality trait do they have that you enjoy the most? He is kind and very experienced.

What do you appreciate the most about this person? He is easy to talk to and has a lot of stories.

What aspects of their life do you look forward to? Being successful and growing old with my future wife.

What aspects of their life do you fear? I don't want to be a burden on others as I grow old. I don't know exactly what they do for him in Dock Woods but, I don't want others to take care of me.

I have enjoyed this experience mainly because I made a good connection with Ron. We are very similar in certain ways. I think we see pieces of ourselves in each other which is why we connected so well. He sees his younger driven self in me and I see my older experienced self in

him. Another thing that I have enjoyed from our conversations is hearing his experiences in the Air Force and how it shaped him into who he is. I think this was something that I needed to hear as my brother is going into the Air Force. After hearing what Ron had to say, I have high hopes for Josh. I think the Air Force will have a positive impact on his life and help him to grow.