Your Family is More Than a Set of â€œHood Oranamentsâ€•

Description

Doing a little exercise, but itâ€™s a story that has merit, lessons learned, and about listening:

I loved my work in the Navy. Actually I just love working on engaging projects. From the time I entered the service on active duty, I dove into my jobs. Not only did I strive for excellence, I seemed to have the bad habit of always creating a side project because, you know, the Navy needed help.

So there I was, married to a beautiful woman, with a daughter and a son, a home owner, despite the moves for the service needs, and certainly great fitness reports. The other part was bringing work home, and if a vacation was taken outside of home, I usually took work, even, IIRC, hauling my trusty Apple][+ and monitor on one.

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Having exceeded 12 some years time in service, the strain on my wife was far more than Iâ€™d paid attention to. Before we had kids, she worked and went to school, and we decided together that she would stay home until later. She did, and I went about being a workaholic.

One of the most profound things she said to me, one night when the words werenâ€™t exactly kind, was â€œYou realize youâ€™re doing all this extra work and youâ€™re being promoted right along with your peers!â€• I, of course, wasnâ€™t in the listening mode, at least not to absorb it and pay attention. It has stuck, so the fact is I did hear it. At the time it had no impact. I believed I was correct, and my extra projects, that stole my connection with my family (my choice), I figured were still more important.

If that was the moment, or not, it was a defining moment. We grew further apart, going through the motions for about 5 more years, when I was just told â€œIâ€™m tired of thisâ€• and the separation, without my argument (knowing I was still right), lead to the divorce. Itâ€™s not like itâ€™s a unique story, but the reality was she was absolutely correct. As the Navy was in the throughs of downsizing in the mid-90s, when the Selective Early Retirement Board for FY96 reported out, my name was on the list, and one of my peers, in particular, who had actually professionally

Category

1. Military

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