

20 THINGS

YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT MICHAEL UNTIL NOW



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What are 3 words people use to describe you?

Health-conscious, Devoted, and Active

If happiness was the national currency, what kind of work would make you rich?

Owning a motorcycle touring business, organizing and leading rides throughout North America.

Name one thing not many people know about you.

I'm a regular contributor to numerous charities devoted to the care and protection of homeless and abused animals.

What did you want to be when you were a child?

A dinosaur scientist, until I was about 10.

What are you most grateful for in your life?

Not including my 3 children, 2 grandchildren, and wife, I'm most grateful for the time I spent with my mother after my father's death. I was able to return the care and attention she so faithfully gave to me growing up, helping her live a happy and fulfilling retirement after losing my dad, and helping me to truly understand the importance of family and the support we provide for one another.

What is the best advice you've ever been given?

My father told me early on to save whatever I could afford on a regular basis, and how that little bit of money would grow into a big pot of money someday.

What are your Top 3 all-time favorite movies?

Jerry Maguire - Tom Cruise, *The Majestic* - Jim Carrey, *Braveheart* - Mel Gibson

What is your greatest achievement and how has it shaped you?

Not sure this is a 'great' achievement, but I founded a men's softball league ("Sunday Morning Softball") in 2003 that grew to 12 teams, 150+/- players, in 2 towns using 3 fields. It was a lot of work, but it offered many middle-aged men a place to get together playing a great sport, make friends, and enjoy some friendly competition every Sunday from spring into the fall. I ran it for 10 seasons until stepping down and handing over the reins, and I'm proud to say the league is entering its 21st season and still going strong. It taught me how to build something big from scratch that's not just about making money, how to be a leader and persevere through various challenges, and how important friendships are.

What book has influenced you the most and why?

It was a book titled "Man, the Manipulator" by Everett L. Shostrom that I read in my late teens that helped me understand the sneaky and self-serving techniques that some people deploy to coerce others in ways that are frequently improper. This has guided me throughout my life to treat people in honest and non-manipulative ways.

What one thing have you not done in your life that you really want to do?

“ I have the privilege
of getting involved
in people’s lives,
finding out what
their concerns are,
and then providing
solutions to get
them to where
they need to be. ”

Ride my motorcycle cross country and through some other parts of the world.

What is your favorite quote and who said it?

“Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances...” First line of the First Amendment to the United States Constitution (Not sure if this qualifies as a quote, but it’s something I’ve thought about a lot lately.)

If you could have dinner with any one person, living or dead, who would they be and why?

Any of the soldiers on the WW2 landing crafts as they sped through the water toward Normandy Beach on the morning of D-Day, June 6, 1944. I’ve often wondered what they were thinking and feeling, knowing they were about to risk their lives in the struggle against fascism and in defense of democracy. I want to thank them for their sacrifices and for the lives we’re all living now.

What words of wisdom would you pass on to your childhood self?

75% of life is hard work and a lot of sacrifice, but if you persevere you will be able to savor the 25% that makes it all worthwhile. Know this going in.

List one thing you wish you could change about yourself?

Be more willing to accept authority and the will of the majority. But on the other hand, this has forced me to learn how to be independent and self-reliant in business.

If you could speak to everyone in the world at the same time, what would you say?

Please don’t allow politics, religion, or race to divide us. Let us unite and create the kind of world our children and grandchildren hope for and deserve.

Who is one of your heroes and why?

John McCain. He fought for our country, and when captured and subsequently offered early release after nearly a year of imprisonment in Hanoi, he refused to leave his fellow prisoners behind, ending up serving more than 5 years. I also admired the way he handled a woman at a Town Hall during his presidential campaign. She wrongly accused Obama of being a Muslim using an accusatory tone, and McCain shut her right down and defended his opponent. He could have allowed it, which would have been politically expedient, but instead did the honorable thing. He was a very heroic man.

What is your most treasured memory?

Fortunately, I have many to choose from, but most recent was when walking my daughter down the aisle at her wedding. It was outdoors and was a sunny spring day; she was so beautiful and happy, and I had the pleasure and privilege to be arm in arm with her. It was an amazing feeling and experience!

If you could have the answer to any one question, what would that question be?

How do we, meaning humans, stop ourselves from ruining the ecosystem of this planet, and restore the world to what nature intended, living in peace together with all the living inhabitants of this world?

If you were to die tomorrow, what would be your biggest regret?

Knowing that even though I did manage to do a lot with my life, I could have done more than I actually did.

If you could live in a book, TV show or movie, what would it be and why?

Star Trek. It shows a time and world when the people of Earth are united and working together to explore the galaxy. It demonstrates that we were able to overcome the turbulent times of today and create a world of societal and environmental harmony.