

Thoughts for Thanksgiving!

Thanksgiving has always been that time of year when I like to reflect on a life event that somehow had an effect or made a difference in my life.

Although I am not a follower of America's Got Talent, I recently heard an interview of a well-known singer called 'Nightbird' who removed herself from the competition due to a returning illness. When asked what gave her the strength to keep on fighting, she replied "don't you want to see what happens if you don't give up?" Her comment made me stop doing what I was doing and take a moment to reflect on her response.

Of course, the thought of not giving up – trekking on – digging in – is in our DNA – it's who we are. However, the extent to which we commit to a project, career or relationship is as individual as we are.

I recall many a conversation with my father when I became frustrated, and his parental pep-talk supported and encouraged me to keep at it until I had done my best. My father's teachings helped me support my children through their challenges so they too would push through until they knew that they had done their best. Today, I watch with pride how my adult children instill the same values, tenacity, and determination in their children whether it has to do with sports, relationships, or school achievements.

Imagine if we all just 'gave up'. What if we quit a game when we were losing – we wouldn't have a chance to come back for the big win. What if we quit writing an exam at the first difficult question – we couldn't possibly pass the exam and move forward. What if rather than apply for a job posting that seems out of reach, you don't apply then there would be no opportunity for career advancement. What if you don't accept the invitation for that first date – a future relationship would have no chance. The 'what ifs' in life are endless. Think of the many times you persevered and the effect on your life. Or, perhaps imagine that one time you didn't persevere – what would your life look like today if you had? I expect Nightbird will never know how many people she may have touched with that one simple comment. Perhaps her words reached someone who was ready to give up but upon hearing her words of wisdom, they stayed the course. We should never underestimate the power we have when we encourage others. I am grateful for all those people in the past, present and future who reach out to support and encourage others to 'see what happens when they don't give up!' Thank you for not giving up, for thinking of others, for making thoughtful decisions, and for your patience and understanding during such a challenging year. Please know how much we appreciate and enjoy working with you!

Wishing you and your family a wonderful Thanksgiving filled with fun and laughter!

