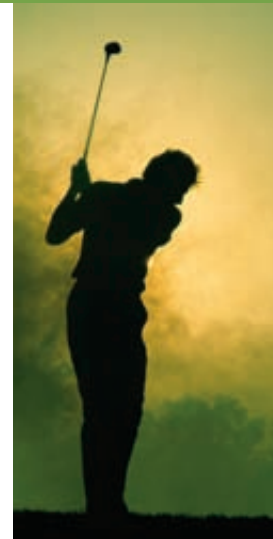


He is my friend! He is my brother!



I know this article is a little "off-course". But, the things said are feelings that we all have experienced. This article is not about golf or the golf industry. It is about "us". An article about dealing with the loss of a loved one; it is something that is inevitable in all our lives. It is something that we have no control over.

Life is very special! The relationships that are created and molded throughout our lives leave an indelible print as to who we are and the way we act. These relationships; parents to children, spouse to spouse, siblings to siblings, grandparents to children, friends to friends, co-workers to co-workers, etc. form us. Some are good and some bad. Hopefully, the good experiences help us grow into thoughtful, loving individuals.

Unfortunately, as part of life these connections/relationships sometimes sever and disconnect. People die. When this occurs our lives can be turned upside down. Our lives take a serious jolt. In some manner, most have unfortunately experienced this discord. We have lost someone near and dear to us; a grandparent, mother or father, husband or wife, brother or sister, uncle, aunts, friends, associates, co-workers, etc. Hopefully, there has been something absorbed from your relationship in the form of experience. This experience provides future direction in our lives, it makes us who we are today.

Unfortunately, I have experienced a number of close relationships that have ended. I have experienced the loss of a father, a brother, and various friends over the last two years. The circumstances do not matter; old or young, good or bad health, family or friend. The outcome is the same. I have lost someone near and dear to me. What I have experienced is no less than anyone else has or will experience in the future. As much as marrying, having children, creating new friends and co-workers is part of life, losing people close to us is also part of life. The true measure of who we are is how we react to these changes. What do we do with what we've learned, experienced, and enjoyed from people that were part of our lives is how we must choose to go on. If we let the relationships impact us in a positive manner, the people lost will live on forever! The memories and special feeling will live on from generation to generation!

Though all these losses have had an impact on my life, the loss of my oldest brother has clearly created a void. He was the glue that bound all us siblings and families together. He was the person that took the family under his arms when our father passed away. He was the cool, calm, and collective sibling that always seemed to be there. He was someone that always kept things under control and in perspective. He wasn't supposed to die! He was only 57.

So often I think of him! He was a brother, a son, a husband, a father, a friend, and a co-worker. He was someone looked up to by many. He was someone that was deeply liked by many; someone that left a positive impression on many. He was like someone in your life.

To this day (four months later), I am deeply saddened by his death. But the wonderful memories we had together live on! Not a day goes by where thoughts of my brother cause a smile to pop on my face or a tear to run from my eye. I thank him for all these fond memories. I thank him for guiding me as to who I am today. I thank him for being a wonderful brother.

This article is about all the things that we want to say and do with the people who are near and dear to us. But for some reason, the answer is always "tomorrow". Sometimes "tomorrow" comes much sooner than we expect. Sometimes we don't get the chance to do the things we want to do. Don't allow yourself to have any regrets. Don't miss the opportunity to express your feelings. Don't miss the ball game, play that round of golf, go to the family gathering, visit and talk to a loved one, have a cold drink or tell someone how you feel. No one knows what tomorrow brings and unfortunately with life expect the "unexpected" (the curve ball).

(continued on next page)

To all of you who have lost someone near and dear to you! To my brother!

Thanks.....

*May the memories we had together live on forever.
The advice and direction you warmly offered but never became overbearing.*

For the brotherly support during difficult times.

For the many rounds of golf enjoyed together and future rounds of golf we will play together in my mind.

For allowing us to be part of your life and your family's; a wonderful sister-in-law and three beautiful nieces.

Knowing you left this world a better place and the people you touched are better for knowing you.

You are deeply missed. Thank you for being my "brother"! -OC

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