

Bob Reynolds One-Page Bio

There are some interesting stories about my life that I will wait until the reunion to share with everybody (trying to build up some anticipation for the reunion?... I will try anything to get you all to attend). But seriously I have some experiences that (I hope) nobody else in the class have had.

But here is the plain vanilla story.

After McAuley I headed to Rolla... it took me 7 years to get through college... it was tougher than I expected. I got a summer job in 1973 and that turned into a permanent job with a coal company.

I was in an auto accident in 1974 that resulted in a broken back... paralysis... muscle problems and others. Because of my paralysis I was transferred to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania where I switched to being a computer programmer. I was there during the disco era and during the year that Pittsburgh won the World Series and the Super Bowl.

Later... changed jobs... moved to Dallas Texas. As I was walking toward a bar one night I saw a guy get shot in the face. I was the first person to his side as he lay on the ground. He lived.

Because of layoffs in coal mining (the price of oil dropped dramatically) I was transferred to Phillips 66 as a software programmer... there I worked as (finally) a Mechanical Engineer working to make milk bottles lighter and stronger.

After layoffs at Phillips I had a 55 month sabbatical (and survived) during which time I learned a new software language and I wrote an “Award Winning” program for teaching Grammar (I got nothing for it but I learned a good programming language). Then I wrote a Killer geography game (students can learn names and locations of all 50 states in 3 hours) but schools don't much care about geography, so my “Killer” software was sort of worthless.

The most courageous thing I have done in my life was, at the age of 45, I stopped a race riot that was about to begin involving about 60 guys. Me. Personally. By myself. Courage.

The worst things that I have one in my life is that I was not caring and compassionate for the 3 dogs that I have owned (one as a 3rd grader... one past-high school, one in Texas). They depended on me. They loved me. I let them down. I am eternally regretful for my lack of love and compassion. One thing that helps lead to my lack of compassion is that I have Aspergers (I have always had that). I also have Prosopagnosia.

When my dad died 10 years ago I moved to Arizona to take care of my mom. That is the one thing in life that I have done well... she is 92 and still in great health.

So I am living in a city of old people. The nice thing is that none of us feel old because we all do things that we have wanted to do all of our lives: just hang out... ride bicycles... do miniature golf... walk our dogs and flock to the “Early Bird Specials” at the local restaurants.

The most exciting thing that I have done lately is that I bicycled across the USA in 2015 (at the age of 68). It took 54 days... 2,600 miles... from the Atlantic to the Pacific... survived!

Bob Reynolds