

May 30, 1937 was the most important day of my life. Joseph D. Montedonico Jr, was born at Columbia Hospital for Women in Washington, DC. I have the distinction of having a town named 'Montedonico' in Northern Italy named after my father's Italian family (in addition two mountains named 'Montedonico', one in the Piedmont area and one in the Eastern area of Italy. My mother's maiden name is Linda Love and she was raised in Loveville, Maryland, named after her father, Kingsley Love, a Southern Maryland gentleman farmer, lawyer and Maryland Congressman.

The Montedonico, Italian side of the family, lies in Memphis Tennessee and has been in America for over 200 years. The family is quite prominent in Memphis as my grandfather, Louis was the owner of the largest real-estate company and had the fortune of living in a very large home with live in servants, cooks, a chauffeur named Sam, and in addition owned a summer cottage in Ludington, Michigan where summers, during college, I worked on the Car Ferry that crossed Lake Michigan.

My dad was one of 6 boys, all went to Notre Dame and were active in sports. Two of my uncles were captain of the Notre Dame golf team and my dad played football, as a line man, for a champion Notre Dame team. After college my dad left his Memphis family to attend Georgetown Law School but did not finish as the depression forced him drop out and work in DC to support his new family of four kids, three girls and me. Fortunately I did not get 'hand-me-down' clothes and was in constant battle with my weaker siblings. My sisters were bright students and piano players. I, on the other hand, was more interest in sports and nature and as a result attended public school and not private, Catholic girls high schools, as they did. I lettered in football, baseball and lacrosse in high school but due to my poor grades and my parents desire that I attend Notre Dame, I was sent to a military School, Charlotte Hall Military Academy in southern Maryland. After graduating, I had no desire to attend Notre Dame and enrolled at the University of Maryland. I immediately pledged into a social fraternity and moved into the frat house. My frat name, 'social Joe', along with my playing freshman college lacrosse and in keeping to my frat name, after 3 semesters, I flunked out. I was almost immediately drafted into the US Army and that 2 years of service was the beginning of the rest of my life. At Fort Benning, Georgia, as a grunt soldier trainee, I was selected as the best soldier in my Battalion, received Expert Rifleman status. I was in good physical shape from playing sports and lacrosse at Maryland, I took the test and was accepted to go to paratrooper school.

However, I did not complete that training as a request was sent out if anyone wanted to volunteer to serve in Europe. Most of my peers had no desire to go to some 'ferign country' with all them 'feriners', however, I did. My best decision. I was transferred to Nuremberg, Germany where the personal guys saw that I had some college and asked if I could 'type,' as the Battalion Commander needed a new clerk. I fibbed as I thought an office job would be better than running thru the mud and rain as a foot soldier. Fortunately, the Commanders other clerk, a drafted school teacher, helped me get by with typing and office work. Having never been into traveling, world history, architecture, art or good food, I was assigned the task of appointing soldiers to guard duty at night. I soon learned that everyone hated guard duty and that the personnel guys were willing not record on my yearly 30 day vacation time in exchange for my getting them off of guard duty. (no wonder I became a lawyer). I probably spent at least 100 days on vacation, at different times, traveling all over Europe. Two weeks in London, 10 days at the Brussels World Fair, 2 weeks in Italy, 2 weeks on the French Rivera (where I met a German Baroness in Monte Carlo and stayed at her villa overlooking the Mediterranean), later 14 day trip in Spain with plans to go too many cities with my traveling buddies but wound up in Barcelona after meeting a beautiful 'woman' and spending my 14 days with her rather than going with my buddies. Also ,10 day trip to Paris where I took in the Louvre and the many beautiful sites and wonderful food. In addition, I spent many leave days traveling all over Germany with my German frauline to the many great old cities of that country.

After 2 years of service in the Army, it was time to return home , and turn my life around. Fortunately, I was accepted back at the University of Maryland, and I studied for the first time in my life. I was still active in my social fraternity and was active in University activities and was admitted into Kalegathos a national leadership fraternity, PAD a National Journalism fraternity, was selected to the Interfraternity football All Star Team. I met my first wife, Marcia Smith, daughter of a Baltimore Physician, and who had attended private girls high schools, was very bright, pretty, who majored in Spanish and eventually worked at NSA at Ft Mead, Maryland, in a very secret job. After graduation, I was accepted at the Maryland Law School. I was editor of the Law School Newspaper and worked summers to help pay for school and living expenses. Many of my law school mates became well known including, Steny Hoyer, member of congress and is still Assistant Democratic leader under Nancy Pelosi, Ben Carden, still a member of congress, K. Simon, Chief Judge of Maryland Court of Appeals, in addition to 2

lower court judges. After graduation, I was selected to become the clerk to Judge Shure ,the Chief Judge in Montgomery County Maryland . Knowing that I wanted to be a trial attorney, for that year with Judge Shure, I observed, in court, the good trial attorneys. Eventually, I was hired by a small firm of 4 lawyers practicing in Maryland and Washington, DC.

Eventually, one of the partners became an Atomic Energy Commissioner, one became a Judge and one became the local Public Defender. I was left and built the 4 lawyer firm into a 65 lawyer firm with offices in Virginia, DC, Maryland, and Delaware. My primary practice, in DC, was defending doctors and hospitals in Malpractice cases. Several of my cases got National news coverage and I appeared on 'Burden of Proof', on CNN, on several occasions, was on 'Forty Eight Hours', NBC and interviewed regarding my representing a white physician who was sued by a African American, former All American and professional football player who lost a leg from alleged malpractice. As a lawyer, I have been selected, for over 25 years, as 'Best Lawyers in America', 'Best Lawyers in Arizona', 'Best Lawyers in Washington, DC' . I was featured as one of the Top 35 Lawyers in Washington, by the Washingtonian Magazine, out of approximately 80,000 DC lawyers. I was also selected to be a member of The International Academy of Trial Lawyers, which has a limited membership of 500 lawyers and judges internationally. Not a 'top seller' but I published a book, 'Medical Malpractice and Health Care Law in Washington, DC', along with several chapters in medical text books regarding malpractice issues.

(Quite interesting for a College flunk out.)

At age 70, I decided to quit my law practice in DC and Maryland and to become a Arizona lawyer. In order to do so I had to take the all-day Multi-State Bar Exam and then the two all day, Arizona Bar Exams, all of which I was fortunate to pass on the 1st attempt. In addition, I took the all-day Navajo Bar Exam and passed so that I could help the unfortunate Navajo People. Other than the Pro-bono work for the Navajos, I served as counsel/Board member for many Sedona area organizations and charitable foundations. After more than 50 years of The Law, in April 2023 I retired from all law work.

On a more social level, after 6 years of marriage too Marcia and adopting a baby in Columbia, SA, we had a 'civil' divorce and after few years as a bachelor, I met Lynne Cummings, an accomplished runway high fashion model. Lynne came from 'the other side of the tracks' from me as she grew up in a wealthy family, private schools, summer camps, and College grad in Fashion. Lynne was on the

social calendar in Washington, a Cherry Blossom Princess, a debutant who made her debut in DC, New York and London. She is in numerous photos, from fashion newspapers, Vogue Magazine and other fashion publications. When Lynne retired from modeling she became the Fashion Director at Saks Fifth Avenue in DC. We were married at our home in DC, 43 years ago, by the Chief Judge of the Superior Court and we took my daughter and Lynne's 2 daughters, from her former marriage, to Grand Cayman as we were both certified Scuba Divers. I was an avid scuba diver which included underwater photography and diving on ship wrecks in the Atlantic that the Germans had blown up during WWII. Most of these wrecks required deep diving, 150-200 feet and using double tanks and wet suits. We eventually built a second home, on the water, on Bonaire, an island off the coast of Venezuela. We spent many weeks there in the beautiful sun and diving the blue waters doing photography. In addition to diving and loving speed, I raced sports cars and was a licensed Sports Car Club of America driver. I raced a Triumph and eventually for PCA, a Porsche.

Skiing was a great winter sport to feed my love of speed. However, my age was showing and quitting was the smart move both as to cars and snow.

Lynne and I helped design a wonderful home in Georgetown-DC overlooking the Reservoir and Potomac River. The home was selected by The AIA (American Institute of Architects) as the best home design in DC and it was the cover and featured article in the Washington Post Magazine.

We sold our home on Bonaire and bought, 30 years ago, a condo at the Junipine Resort in Sedona. This was our new 'get-a-way' place. Eventually we designed and built a 5000 sq ft home off Soldiers Pass Road in Sedona however 3 levels and size, as we were both working full time, was too much so we down sized to a more modest home in West Sedona. We love travel including, Italy, Greece and Alaska 2 times, Mexico, Africa, Viet Nam, Thailand, Germany (Europe), multi-Caribbean Islands, and Columbia.

Today I still have a great liking for art, photography and gardening and being a Husband and home-body with Lynne.