

MKC

Hello everyone, hello Mike

I opened my closet to look for something to wear that I know you like- and I chose this outfit because its red, and you like red. You like Marianne in Red, you have a red coat you wore to work when you were at UCSF and you have a red Porsche. I bet you don't remember the day when we were lecturing somewhere, I came down late because Graham had a fever. I was flurried, felt rushed and you calmly hooked my computer up. I went to put on the microphone clip and you smiled and said-I'll get a wet rag. There was baby vomit all down my left lapel... luckily it has come out. So, for today I'm wearing this its old suit, I still like it especially because you did.

I'd like to thank you, Mike for so many things. When I first met you as a brand-new second year resident, in July of 1987 you asked me "do the coronaries come off above the valve or below?" I thought and answered you, "well are you asking me as an anatomical question or as a physiological question"? You put down your pen and smiled a huge smile. I said huh? You said, you are hired.

And wow, did you take care of me, in such a way I think only Marianne really knows. Anyone can look up your cv or mine. But no one knows the fine attention to details of my life that if not for you well, I wouldn't be where I am today. Or, for that matter, my boys.

First, thank you for insisting I put 20% away in my 403B right from the start. I remember asking you-do I check the stock box or the bond box? And which of those boxes? You said Index stock. Done! Then later on the giving me the book by David Swenson (Yale trust fund manager) unconventional approach to investing....

Second, you said you must buy a house. The biggest house you can, and don't spend any money on furniture. You found the UCSF loan that only needed 10 % down, and you persuaded Ron Miller to nominate me for that. Then you that mentioned Collete's husband Bob (Collete, a terrific Cardiac nurse and our friend) could redo the house for me. I gave him a key and he helped me! I went to buy the supplies in my little GTI-tied many things to the top of the car, so as you suggested, I did not have to pay Bob's time for shopping at the hardware store. The house ended up looking beautiful and resold for 3 times the value.

You turned a blind eye when I said I was moonlighting at CPMC doing OB anesthesia on weekends especially when I brought in a paper or two that I'd written in between the labor epidurals. You turned that blind eye because you wanted me to buy the house and stay put in SF. So right!

Third, you taught me so many things about life in the OR. Our team was fantastic, between you and Marianne everyone was trained on so many levels.

You always told me three important OR lies are :

It was dry when I closed.

This won't take long.

This is not going to bleed!

You said, you don't need to be friends with surgeons. They can be fickle and you are easily replaced. I know you were only trying to protect me from feeling hurt...in every relationship.....

And you stuck up for me so many times. I remember when the blue towel fell onto the cleaned chest on a baby when I started the TEE and the surgeon rushed to your office to get me kicked out permanently. I remember too chuckling when you called to tell me he had just left. I

said, what did you say? You said-be nice to her and your name will be on a lot of papers, she writes. Well, after that I was never bothered by him.

Fourth, I'd like to thank you for all the times you would sit with me and go over manuscripts. I would write and write, manuscripts far too long really.

You'd say this is too long....

We would go out to the OC for lunch, get a sandwich and an iced tea and then you'd pull out the papers, always marked through in plenty of red pen...

But then you would stare at it and come up with some perfect one liner, that ended up with many a lead article accompanied by an editorial.

Like when Helmut and I did the LAP project, and I described the increases in LAP as diastolic function worsened and how the venous inflow pattern changed ... you stared at it a long time and then and said "so it's like an eyeball index of diastolic function ".

Correct! A paper in Circulation, an editorial and a nomination of the FACC for me. Should have been yours. Everyone thinks we were all TEE but little do they know. How about the Sevo versus Halothane study with 180 patients.... Randomized, blinded and consent forms.... And we sat over the raw data and then the analyzed data and you came up with, well both agents cause hypotension and bradycardia, but more frequently in the halo pts, and bingo ...

Exclusivity for Sevoflurane. And the nitric oxide....

How many of those one-liners did you write for me-so many. To this day I try to emulate you, sometimes people think I am angry because

my emails can be terse but its only because I am trying to follow how you taught me to be concise.

I know you don't like me having notes and I should do this off the cuff, and I am sorry but today I cannot. I know the slides are always supposed to have three points and the font is the same.
Etc, etc, etc.

But today is about as hard as when you made me debate against Joel Kaplan as a brand new faculty member at UCSF. I mean he had written a whole textbook on cardiac anesthesia and how was I supposed be able to defend "TEE can replace the PA catheter? But you prepped me so well, I had so many of what I used to call the MKC your velvet harpoon style comments embedded in my brain

Fifth, thank you for taking the boys ice fishing. And thank you for your help in advising me to teach them to manage a debit card, and then a credit card and then to give them enough to manage stocks and understand compound interest. When you last saw them, you said do good things. They both have and they have made me very proud.

So, Mike thank you for all this. You are the real deal of a best friend.

And William said:

Well, he saved 1000 people. And he taught 1000 people who saved 1000 people.

He lived on a golf course near Michael Jordan, he has Marianne and a red Porsche.

You can't beat that.

But Graham said, well Mum feels ripped off. Not enough time-you see, I'd rather be here cooking your 70th birthday dinner like the one we had ten years ago for your 60th.