

Thaddeus John Woronowicz II

Eulogy

My dad (Thad or Big Thad as my friends would say) was larger than life to me growing up only a few miles from this church where we are today. Smart (or as my good friend Pete told me the morning of his death “brilliant”), caring, & loyal to a fault. Family was everything to him. He would do anything for his family . . . anything (a little more on that later).

My dad was born in Elizabeth New Jersey but spent most of his childhood growing up in Wilkes-Barre PA. He graduated from Wilkes college with his BS in Physics and later got his master’s degree in Physics from Case Western Reserve in Cleveland OH. He taught Physics at Quincy College (where he met my mom) and then shortly after that started his career as an engineer focused on reliability at Motorola. He went back to school later in life and got his master’s degree in engineering (I believe from UB but not 100% sure). I may be a little bias here, but he is one of the smartest men I have ever met. I remembering when I was growing up hearing people tell Polish jokes (you know like the famous “how many does it take to screw in a light bulb”) and being confused because my dad was Polish and also the smartest person I knew so those jokes made no sense to me.

Next to family work was everything to my Dad. Some people have work and when they are not working, they have hobbies such as golf, music, art, etc. My Dad’s hobby was work. He loved what he did, and he loved talking about it. He loved being part of ASQC (American Society for Quality Control). My dad could talk your ear off regarding work and automobiles – both were his passions. He loved driving manual / stick automobiles.

A few qualities my dad passed down to me: (1) the love of cheap beer . . . I am not quite sure if he loved the taste or the fact that it was cheap (I think a little bit of both). (2) Sci-fi and James Bond – some of my most fondest memories as a kid are going to see various movies at the theatre with my dad such as star wars, aliens, moon raker, and the Indiana jones movies (3) Punctuality – my father was always early. Speaking of punctuality – a little story: my dad used to commute to work with his co-worker Dan Lerczak (or Mr. Lerczak as he was known to me - the father of my good friend Pete). Pete would tell me the story of my dad pulling into the driveway early to pick up his dad for work and Pete’s dad running into the shower in his underwear from the bed polar-opposite those two. & finally (4) work ethic / drive. My dad taught me not to feel sorry for myself and to work as hard as I could and to never give up.

A few stories quick stories of the man who was my dad:

- (1) There was the time I was a freshman at the University of Dayton. It was Christmas break and I and my friend Dave had arranged with another student who had a car to drive us home to Western New York (Dave lived in Rochester) for the holiday break. The school did offer a bus service but we had a ride so there was no need. Well as you might have guessed our ride backed out at the last second and it was too late to signup for the bus. It looked like we might be spending Christmas in the dorms when my dad drove thirteen hours round trip in the winter and picked us up and brought us both back and arranged for Dave’s parents to meet us in Buffalo to pick up their son. That was my dad.

- (2) Then there was the time I met this young beautiful woman at UB (a few years younger than I). We had been dating for a few years and it was time to pop the question only I was poor at the time. Well my dad stepped in and “lent” me the \$1,600 for the small diamond ring that now sits on her finger. My memory is not what it used to be, but I don’t recall ever paying my dad back for that ring (nor do I recall him asking me for the money). That’s just the type of father he was. To this day (after almost 22 years of marriage) my wife still has the small diamond ring – sorry dear but even though I now can afford a much bigger diamond that ring and diamond are never being replaced. A symbol of our humble beginnings and my Dad’s generosity to his son at a time of need.
- (3) Finally – a story that again my good friend Pete reminded me of the other day that still to this day makes us laugh. It was our Senior year in high school / Friday night / late / and my turn to drive. Not exactly sure where we went or what mischief we were up to that night but, I, Pete, and a couple other friends were driving around in my car (that my dad bought for me) – an old chevy two toned citation and I was feeling a little tired so I asked Pete if he didn’t mind driving. Pete took the wheel and a little while later Pete said to me “I think a car is following us “. After a few more minutes went by I turned to Pete and said, “Pete I think you are right – lose him”. And then the chase was on . . . Pete speeding around Elma’s country roads with this car hot on our tail (something out of a movie). Finally, after 10 / 15 minutes we pulled over – and then I knew – it was my dad checking up on me / us – and it was him who had been tailing us all along. As a teenager I wasn’t too happy at the time – but looking back it was quite the story and my father making sure his son was ok.

To conclude . . . dad . . . (1) I will miss our Sunday talks with cheap beer in hand (2) your help whenever I needed it (3) watching you and my wife split a bottle of wine (or two) over dinner – If I recall cheap wine of course (3) and your brilliant mind. I can still remember dad when you would say good night to me when I was a child all nestled in my bed and kiss my cheek and I still can feel the tickle of your mustache – rest in peace. I hope I made you proud!

Thanks !

As Ted said, Thad was certainly a very dedicated person to his Reliability work at Motorola.

Customers all over the World (GM, Ford, Chrysler, Bosch, VW, Toyota , BMW, etc) would call Thad and ask him how he would Test their products to find a Reliability / Field failure. Motorola's Product / Design Engineer Teams would come to talk with Thad and ask him to write the Reliability Test requirements they wanted their products to meet. Thad would set the Standard. It is no wonder when New Customers would come to tour our Motorola facility they would sit for hours in his Rel Lab amazed at his Reliability Test Capabilities, to stress their products to the limits. He was truly the most knowledgeable person Motorola had on making products last in all kinds of environmental conditions. If your product could pass Thad's Reliability Testing it would last 10 yrs or 100,000 mile requirement.

Thad truly was Mr. Reliability for all Motorola products Worldwide.

John Lupinski

Motorola's Automotive Quality Director