

One Saturday afternoon, when he was eight years old, **Derek** remembers playing in a particular baseball game. He shagged the ball and raced his opponent to tag him before he reached the base. Derek was sure he got 'em out, but the umpire didn't see it that way! Our little boy took such "injustice" to heart, and tears erupted. At that, Derek's coach, who happened to be his dad, marched onto the field. Taking his son to task, Derek quickly learned a lesson in sportsmanship. While grown-up Derek laughs at his own recollection of this story, he is quite serious about the lessons his dad taught him. In fact, the integrity and compassion that his dad modeled still inspire him. "Even though Dad struggled with his health the last few years of his life," Derek explains, "he was always concerned to make someone else's life better." He helped Derek's brother establish his business building wheelchair ramps. One time, when he sold a van, he turned down the highest bidder and took the lowest offer. "That guy's family needed it more," Derek's dad explained. From the gas station attendant to all of his nine children, everyone mattered to Dad. "Of course," Derek clarifies, with a twinkle in his eye, "I always knew I was Dad's favorite!"

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