

# SEEING OUR FUTURE IN OUR PAST... LEAVING A LEGACY



by: Cassie Wells

Have you ever thought about your favorite childhood memory? Maybe it centered on a grandparent with whom you shared a special bond or an incident that seemed so insignificant at the time, though it was monumental in your development. Perhaps the smell of lilacs evokes feelings of lazy spring mornings spent picking the perfect bouquet to present to someone special or maybe the memory of caressing a hand wrinkled with age and remembering the feel of the gentle touch against your skin brings a bittersweet smile to your face. Each of our lives is so unique and filled with delicate, irreplaceable memories that have helped to mold our core values and influence our personal development. How can we share these experiences with our families to ensure they live on so each generation will be familiar with our life and those we love?

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*Legacies of Love* is a local company that helps people express and immortalize the memories and important events of their lives so that they can be enjoyed over and over again. What a precious gift to hand down to our children and their children! Through in-depth interviews and transcription, Legacies of Love creates a keepsake of treasured memories and irreplaceable information that will surely be cherished for years to come.

With age we begin to witness the decline of our beloved family members and, unfortunately, their memories also begin to diminish. It is amazing how quickly important family information or even simple incidents can be forgotten if not written down. Our parents are of an aging

generation filled with wisdom and experiences that will never again be witnessed. When they pass away, if those memories are not captured beforehand, this information of unfathomable value will forever be silenced.

My father-in-law recently passed away and as I listened to his eulogy I was amazed by how much I did not know about him! Raised in rural Tennessee in the 1940's he married his high school sweetheart and then joined the Air Force. During his exciting career this young family lived in five different foreign countries, as well as Alaska, as he rose to the rank of E-9. At one time he enjoyed the honor of being the youngest Chief Master Sergeant in the Air Force. His humble beginnings and unforgettable spirit will always be remembered. I am awed knowing that his great-grandchildren will learn of his tenacity, unforgettable humor, and unflinching zest for life through the storytelling he left behind.

Because our lives are hectic, we often find that time is not our ally as there always seems to be something to do that takes precedence over what we would like to do. Don't let time steal incredible stories from your family. Preserve your precious memories. Help those you love see into your heart through the words you want to say.

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