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MARVIN BLUM'S "PRE-OBITUARY"

July 27, 2021

Marvin Elliott Blum (1954 – 20??). Marvin filled the “dash” between those two dates as a servant, dedicated to his family, his community, and his career.

Marvin was born in Fort Worth, Texas into a family of modest means, but his parents provided him the love and support to achieve his dreams. His four grandparents escaped the Nazis and arrived in America with only the clothes on their backs, the knowledge in their minds, and the passion in their hearts. They raised their descendants to embrace hard work, education, and a commitment to family. It was this upbringing that shaped Marvin to fill every moment of his life being productive.

In his early years, Marvin's time was filled with school and working in the family business, an industrial café in Fort Worth's meat packing district that later grew into a meat packing supply business. Marvin was a serious student, finishing first in his class at Paschal High School, first in his class at The University of Texas (Accounting), and second in his class at UT Law School.

Marvin often described the best decision of his life as marrying Laurie Kriger from Memphis, Tennessee. Marvin and Laurie were a team in everything they did. First and foremost, they were devoted to raising their children, Adam and Elizabeth, and later bonding with their son-in-law Ira and daughter-in-law Brooke as if they were their children and not their in-laws. Their greatest joy came from a deep connection with their grandkids Stella, Juliet, Lucy, Oliver, and Grey.

After short stints working for Price Waterhouse and Law, Snakard law firm, Marvin's entrepreneurial genetics empowered him to open The Blum Firm, which grew to become the nation's largest estate planning law firm. He frequently said his greatest work accomplishment was assembling a super-star team. His co-workers acknowledge Marvin's extremely high expectations of them, but appreciate that he was always fair, even-tempered, and treated everyone in the office with the same level of respect. Marvin approached his work with a passion to help his clients preserve their estates and pass down a lasting legacy. It was that passion for his work that propelled Marvin's decision to never retire.

Marvin was equally passionate about civic work, a strong advocate for giving back to the community that gave so much to him. He often said that in giving, he got back so much more than he gave. Marvin served on the boards of well over a dozen charities, almost always serving as the organization's treasurer.

To recharge his batteries, Marvin's favorite “non-work” activities were taking walks with Laurie, working out, painting, and working in his yard. Like everything he did, Marvin confessed that he attacked even these “downtime” moments with fervor. His “obsessive-compulsive” nature was deep in his makeup, a badge he admitted to and wore openly. Marvin would feel guilty if he ever had an idle moment.

Like any life journey, Marvin's path wasn't free of obstacles. His greatest heartbreaks were having a full-term stillborn baby born on February 11, 1982 (the pain eased when Adam was miraculously born one year to the day later on February 11, 1983), and losing his brother Irwin to pancreatic cancer at age 65.

His greatest challenge at work came in 2001 when a tornado ripped through downtown Fort Worth and completely destroyed Marvin's law firm. Marvin and Laurie always worked together to conquer through life's challenges and rebuild.

Marvin often summed up his life's mission by these tenets: RELATIONSHIPS, MEMORABLE MOMENTS, SPIRITUALITY, PRODUCTIVE WORK, GIVING BACK, and RESILIENCE. That is the legacy that he passes onto his family, as it says in Jewish tradition "L'dor Vador," from generation to generation.