

## Purposeful Legacy Outline for KOF

Bill, my experience of these past 20 years has been a bit different, I used to be much shorter in stature as a person and now stand a tall 6'2" and growing as a chair. Thank you. Bill Williams, Fred Chaney's and your hard work many years ago, has helped me grow as a professional and person.

After hearing the kind and thoughtful words about Bob Nourse yesterday and seeing his picture under the tree. I know what he was gazing and envisioning...**Us here today!**

It was also sad but important to hear about our 7 colleagues who have passed since the last meeting. Their purposeful legacy surely lives on.

In preparing for this session, I was reminded of Pat **Murray** at this meeting a few years back (and his passing shortly thereafter). It was literally my last glimpse of a man who changed my life. I have no doubt that I wouldn't be in this meeting today without his empowering and inspiring words during my early Chair years. I literally wore out the cassette tapes of his talks.

A lesson from Pat that changed my life's trajectory:

**"It's really important to know what you in what in life but even more important to know the price you are willing to pay to get it."**

How many people in this room were positively affected by Pat? Please raise your hands

I also would be remiss if I didn't mention my fellow Chair Training Buddy **Kevin Rafferty** (sadly, he must have missed out on Keepers) who also recently passed and reminded all of us to **Get Naked, Get Real, Get Happy** (raise the book).

Quote from Kevin:

**“Authenticity is always right in front of us, and we know it when we are in the presence of it.”**

His smile and encouragement during my early days of Chairing will stay with me forever...

Makes me think about the many other giants that I am standing on the shoulders of as a Vistage Chair and Executive Coach. A quite daunting responsibility if you think about it.

*One of my favorite all time quotes is:*

***“The great use of life is to spend it for something that will outlast it.” - William James***

I think we see evidence of this at every funeral we attend:

**Will there be long lines and touching personal stories or the opposite? What relationship wake will you leave behind?**

*I have a very simple belief.*

*“All of us have a frequency for living a fulfilling life designed just for us and the universe is constantly trying to steer us in that direction. We just need to do the work to tune into it. The signal is always there.”*

As Shakespeare wrote:

**“To thine own self be true,  
And it must follow, as the night follows the day,  
Thou canst not then be false to any man (woman).”**

**Purposeful Legacy Definition(s):**

**Purposeful** -= If someone is purposeful, they show that they have a definite aim and a strong desire to achieve it. – “The Why”

Dr. Randy Peeters helped me define my core purpose 17 years ago:

**My Personal Core Purpose: To be a force for good, a vessel for positive change,  
and a conduit of love and support!**

**Legacy** = the long-lasting impact of particular events, actions, etc. that took place in the past, or of a person’s life. – “The What, Who, and How”

**My Professional Objective (What I want to leave behind): To change the world  
for the better one leader at a time (starting with me).**

Based on this definition, **Who are some people who you believe have left a  
purposeful legacy? Why?**

As part of this exercise, I created a personal legacy formula:

**Personal Legacy = (Strong Desire) + (Clarity of Focus) + (Natural Ability/Talent) +  
(Resiliency of Effort) + (Critical and Empowering Relationships)**

## **5 Steps to Help Your Figure This Out:**

First, It all starts with a strong desire which to me means striving for a meaningful purpose. Everyone wants their life to matter.

**What is the fire that burns from within? What is guiding you to take action and to be heard and seen?**

Second, focus on how you spend your time. Life is full of distractions and necessary obligations. **How do you stay on course with what truly matters to you?**

***What does your schedule tell you about what you value? Is it aligned with your strong desire to make a positive difference?***

Third, what are your natural gifts; **what is your “uniqueability?”**

**When do you experience moments of “flow” where you feel like you are doing exactly what you were made to be doing? How often are you tapping into this energy?**

Fourth, resiliency is all about the determination of effort. There will be all types of roadblocks strewn in your path. Anything of significance usually involves some level of personal sacrifice and hard work.

As Randy Pausch said, **“The brick walls are there for a reason.”**

**When are obstacles irrelevant to the outcome? As Boaz states, if your why is big enough, the how doesn't matter.**

Fifth, no one is ever successful alone. You need people to participate in your journey who keep you on track and make you a better you. You genuinely care about their well-being and feel a strong emotional bond/connection.

***Who have been critical personal influences for you? How have they helped unleash your potential?***

My Quick Example:

**Strong Desire** – I am a pleaser and an empathetic person. Since an early age have always wanted to have a positive impact on others especially those who need help.

**Clarity of focus** – I've always been attracted to leadership roles and everything I can learn about leadership in all domains of life.

**Natural Talents/Abilities** – I seem to have a knack for seeing what needs to be done, possess an innate curiosity about potential solutions, and am able to galvanize others to make it happen. I love to teach and coach.

**Resiliency of effort** – Every setback has been a learning experience and never prevented me from pursuing my path. In fact, overcoming the obstacle only made the path clearer and reaffirmed my focus.

**Critical and Empowering Relationships** – I've had people show up throughout my life at just the right time to keep me on course and to also see things in myself I don't see. They've built me up, opened up doors, and pushed me forward.

**Thank you Gary Mulhair!**

All of this is basically the why, what, and how of living a meaningful life. And meaningfulness leads to vitality.

And, as Joseph Campbell says, **‘The influence of a vital person vitalizes, there's no doubt about it.’**

**Right now, We need more vital positive people in this world, but this has probably always been the case.**

***How are you showing up as a vital presence right now? For what, whom and why?***

**In conclusion:**

***What do you want to leave behind as your enduring purposeful legacy? How are you moving from success to significance?***

**As Kevin would say...Get Naked, Get Real, Get Happy!**