

One-Liners . . . That Changed My Life!

70 “*You were elected—now be the President!*”

When I was a young man I thought it would be exhilarating to be in charge. As time went by, I discovered being in charge wasn't as much about privilege and prestige as about responsibility. I found I enjoyed working independently and advising others, but had no particular desire to direct them.

When the nominating committee of our local service club came to me and wanted me to be President, I was dubious. I wasn't sure I was suited for the task. Maybe I just didn't want the responsibility. I thought about it and discussed it with my wife who encouraged me to accept. I finally did.

It was our custom for Past Presidents to meet with each incoming President and encourage and offer observations from their time in office and pass on any helpful hints. One man gave me the best advice when he said firmly and forcefully, “*You were elected—now be the President!*”

William Halsey, a World War II Admiral, allegedly told a young man who wanted out of responsibility, “*There are no great men. Just great challenges which ordinary men, out of necessity, are forced by circumstance to meet*”.

I am glad I accepted the responsibility. There were a few bumps, but it became one of the great experiences of my life.

And I found it was O.K. for an “ordinary man” to be President!

From Grandpa With Love

A Note From the Writer

Moving into my nineties caused me to reminisce. It was eye-opening to realize how much I had been changed by one-liners. I decided some of these might give others a new insight or a chuckle, so—enjoy! You can reproduce this material, provided the copies are complete, including this copyright note, and circulated free of charge. © 2018 Marvin J. Martin