



This Is To You Dads

by Joe Gandolfo

A father of a 7 year old boy pulls up in the driveway after a day at work. As he gets out of the car he notices the bikes and toys scattered around the yard. He hears voices in the backyard, that of his wife and son.

Every year in June, on the third Sunday since 1924, we celebrate Father's Day. Thanks to the pioneering efforts of Sonora Smart Dodd in 1909 after a Mother's Day sermon and President Calvin Coolidge in 1924, Dads have a day to be recognized for their influence and efforts.

The father follows the voices to the backyard to see his son a good way up the tree with eyes wide open and a death grip on the branches as he climbs higher. He sees his wife with a look of concern, slight fear and a tiny bit of amazement on her face.

*The father hollers out "**Wow, that is the highest I have seen you climb**". The 7 year old smiles back at his parents with a look of pride. "**Climb slow and steady son**" the father reminds him. "I will Dad" the boy yells back. "Look at me Mom" the boy proudly yells. Mom grabs and clutches Dad's hand; Dad notices a slight tremble in her hand.*

Children need both parents, their Mom and Dad and all they offer as they maneuver and climb their way through life. We ALL know this to be true. The unique influence and importance of both a Mom and Dad can never be discounted, and should be respected and honored by both.

Moms can not be Dads and Dads cannot be Moms – no matter how much they may feel they need to be and try to be. All parents want their children to be healthy, to minimize troubles, have more opportunities and to be more happy than not. No matter what the family situation is, it is a commonality parents share.

Holding hands, the Mom and Dad look at each other and agree the boy has climbed high enough. Both yell out, "That is high enough for today". The boy frowns for a moment and then yells back "watch how fast I can get down the tree". The boy climbs down from the tree and runs over to give his Mom a hug and his dad a high-five.

Yes, Moms get the hugs and Dads get the high-fives – our children need both. We honor Moms and Dads each May and June. Moms and Dads try their best to honor their children each day through the daily commitment of raising their children.

Mom and Dads need to remember to honor each other and the unique differences we offer our children, and to support and encourage each other's unique efforts.

The boy looks at both Mom and Dad, smiles and say's "thanks for watching and being there while I climbed the tree". Little did the boy know that he was climbing more than the tree.

Listen to Joe's free daily podcast – **Teen Success Radio** – available on iTunes.

His new book **The Greatest Teenage Myth in the World** is now available @ www.JosephGandolfo.com or www.TheGreatestTeenageMythInTheWorld.com

Joe Gandolfo is on a mission to **champion the greatest commodity in today's world – our youth, teenagers, young adults and college students**, and to rally, strengthen and energize the adults – parents, educators, mental health professionals and organizations - who work with and care about our greatest commodity in the world.

Joe works as a **professional speaker, success coach, seminar leader motivational counselor and author**. He brings 20 years experience working with youth, teen-agers, student-athletes, professional athletes, adults, parents, educators, public and private schools, organizations and associations.

His clients have included: *Georgia Tech Athletic Association, Rockdale County Schools, Cobb County Schools, Cobb Teen Leadership, YMCA, Childcare Resource Network, University of Clemson, University of West Georgia, PGA of America, Milwaukee Brewers, Coca-Cola, SouthCoast Hospitals, Owens-Corning and MPI Georgia Chapter.*

He has been an adjunct professor at Georgia Tech (1996-2000) and Georgia State (2005-06). He was on staff at the Homer Rice Center for Sports Performance (2000-07). He has had a private consulting practice since 1991.

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