

President's Column

by David Campbell



The saying goes: “The best-laid plans of mice and men often go awry.” This is true of many plans that people make, and very true with this month’s column.

I had planned to tell the story of how I am often asked about purchasing ACC-branded items. The short answer for now is that they can be purchased at zazzle.com/acccribbage. Next month I will explain more about it, but this month my column has a topic that I knew of only today.

As I write, tomorrow, October 14, is my son’s birthday. My son **Damian** was born in 1991 and struggled through school because he had a learning disability (ADD). He loved video games and was very well liked by many. His favorite holiday was Halloween.

Last year on July 2 (my fifty-first birthday), I was in Wisconsin preparing to go out to eat for my birthday with my girlfriend **Lana Newhouse** and her daughter **Carley**. Around 2:30 in the afternoon my phone rang, and I expected it to be either my son or daughter calling to wish me happy birthday. Instead it started the worst day of my life.

The person on the phone said, “Mr. Campbell, are you with someone? Please sit down.” I can assure you that if you ever get that call and question, very bad news is coming. The news was that my son

Damian had passed away after suffering a massive seizure.

The news floored me, and I can honestly say that I would not wish something like this upon my worst enemy. I struggled for a lot of days as we planned his funeral.

What then happened is that friends from high school, relatives, and ACC members from all over the country started contacting me wishing their condolences and love via phone calls, cards, emails, and texts.

I am telling this story now because when I woke this morning I saw on my table a happy birthday balloon my daughter **Kesia** had bought.

Both my daughter and I still have good days and bad days, but because of the support of people I knew—and many I didn’t even know existed—in the ACC, the struggle has been much easier than if we had faced this terrible tragedy alone.

So thanks to all who took the time to think of my daughter and me last year. It meant a great deal to us both.

Last year confirmed for me that the ACC is a wonderful organization with tremendous people throughout it. I hope that you take the time to promote our wonderful group whenever possible. I sincerely hope that you will do so in the future when Marketing asks for your help as we do all we can to promote and attract new members. **CW**