

Richard "Bubba" Chrismer • Atlanta, Georgia

Never could shake the nickname, so I was rarely called Richard as I went through my next 40+ years working in Atlanta.

Initially, I worked in the Alumni Office of the University of Georgia in 1980 after cramming four years into five up there. I came back to Atlanta and worked in sales for Xerox for a couple of years and Executone for a few after that before landing in the commercial real estate business in 1985. I had no idea that representing office tenants in their search for office space was even a job. Jumped in there with both feet at Carter and Associates, and fortunately, my soon-to-be wife had a job so we could eat occasionally.

Cathy and I were married in 1986 and had our first daughter in 1987 and our second daughter in 1990. They have been the highlight of my last 40 years for sure! Our daughters also went to Westminster and thoroughly enjoyed it like I did. We are lucky to have two great sons-in-law as well.

We now have five grandchildren, four girls and one boy. Couldn't believe it but they named the boy "Bubba." While certainly honored, I discouraged that, but lost, as I think it's tough enough out there now without putting that on him.

I am currently in a "wind down" mode in my business as I pretty much just deal with my existing clients for the most part. While still working every day, I enjoy not feeling the pressure to keep up with the frenetic pace of a straight commission job that I was accustomed to for so long.

My time seems to be split between working, working out, Pilates, golf and walking a good bit (have to because I can't seem to give up the sweets).

I had blood clots that went to my lungs in 2015 that almost got me, but have had no problems since then, thanks to blood thinners. I think I was trying before, but since then I have really tried to just have a good day every day and stack them one after the other.

While believing that my life couldn't be a total waste as I could always serve as a bad example, I have really enjoyed leading (facilitating) small groups whether at Church or in the neighborhood. Cathy thinks I should have been a coach of some kind, so this mentoring of younger folks has always been a fulfilling exercise for me.

Obviously, being privileged enough to have gone to Westminster with the special folks that were born around 1957 was one of the most important things that I have experienced in my life. Our class was full of such remarkable people, some of which I still am able to enjoy today. I do not take it for granted and count it as one of life's biggest blessings for me.

It was definitely a "God thing" that I showed up per my Dad's direction and was accepted to Westminster in the 8th grade. I think I got in on a package deal because I came in with Bucky, Kel and Cody. Lucky for me.

I often look back so favorably on all the things I can remember about my time there. I am truly blessed to have had the Westminster experience and to realize how it set me up on a trajectory to tackle all that life throws at you.












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