



# Arkansas Association of Defense Counsel

July 25<sup>th</sup> 2016

## Because They Don't Want To

Friends – Being the President of the AADC is a great honor; but, at the same time, a great challenge. One must be somber, sober, intellectual and most of all, dry, dull and boring. It is important to do the business of the Association and to communicate through this weekly newsletter information of great weight and serious consequence. But, for just one of 52 issues, caution is thrown to the wind and humor and joy have their day. So, for this, the last AADC newsletter for which I bear any responsibility, (President Michael Harrison promises to carry on the tradition in her administration), here goes ☺

I love my wife, I really do. Those of you who follow my private writings know the current model is wife 2.0. Because there was a 1.0, I know just how truly blessed I am with 2.0. But.....

2.0 recently traveled to the very edge of the state for a mission trip and of course, the automobile surrendered. Several phone calls to dealers, mechanics, Triple A, etc, resulted in the car being towed across state lines to the nearest dealer for a very expensive repair. That, of course, is when I got involved. Several calls to the dealer “tomorrow, we promise” and no part. Internet research and multiple calls to other dealers reveal the part for the 11 year old car is on national back order and 200 are expected in three months. We are 395 on the list. For the 200 that “should” be available in three months.

2.0 is not happy. It is very hot on the mission trip and the plumbing is intermittent. Son 1.0 is unhappy because it is really his car. Both want to know what I am going to do about it. Please note that I didn't take the car on the trip and I didn't break it. But, what am I going to do about it?

It turns out that many years ago (multiple decades) I had a job that required purchasing salvage auto parts. So, multiple calls later, I've located the part at a salvage yard. But, the yard is short handed and they can't pull the part until very late in the day. It is a 4 hour drive to

the current location of the car, and I must deliver the part because the dealer isn't allowed to purchase used parts directly. Well, as noted above, many years ago I spent years in and around salvage yards; so, white shirt, suit, tie, and I go to the salvage yard and retrieve the part (a very large hard to get at part), personally, through the use of large, manly, power tools. I load the part in my truck and because the site of the mission trip is marginally on the way to the dealership, and because I really, really, hate driving alone, I asked 2.0 if she would ride the last hour with me. You know, one hour over, one hour back. Keeping me company for two of the eight hours I would drive to deliver the part for her car in addition to the three hours retrieving the part in the first place. Because - I really, really, hate driving alone. Eight hours. Alone.

Well it went like this. “Honey, will you ride with me to the dealer?” “No.” I really hate driving alone and I am making this trip for you.” “No.” Well, I drove the four hours to deliver the part to the dealer in the next state and about 30 minutes into the return trip, 2.0 calls to ask if I will divert to the city of the mission trip and bring her home, early, because it is really hot on the mission trip and because she really, really, wants to come home early. So, despite the message above, and because she is 2.0, yes, I made the trip.<sup>1</sup>

If you are wondering about the title to this article, it is the answer to the following question: **“Why don't husbands outlive their wives....”**

It has been a blessing and a great honor to serve as the President of the AADC. I learned more than I taught and I received more than I gave. I hope I followed the Boy Scout admonition of leaving it better than I found it. However and despite the joy and personal growth associated with being the AADC President, the answer to the following question may also be found in the title to this article: **“Why don't AADC Presidents serve second terms?”**

<sup>1</sup> Yes, this story is true, every word.



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AADC President 2015-16

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