

An Ethical Will: Reflections and Lessons Learned

An Example Resource from the My Last Words Founder Vault

While this is in written form, it could very well form the basis for another video or set of videos left for your loved ones. There is no reason you couldn't leave a personalized video for each child for instance. This is merely a sample, be creative. Sing a song, recite a joke, share a favorite recipe. It doesn't have to be all solemn and serious.

To my family, friends, and descendants,

We spend so much time in life organizing our finances, building our careers, and accumulating things. But as I've learned from both life and loss, the most valuable assets we leave behind aren't physical or financial—they are the lessons we've learned, the values we hold, and the stories we share.

I built this platform to organize the logistics of my estate, but I am using this specific drawer to leave you with a few thoughts that I hope will serve you well long after I am gone.

Never Stop Being a Student I have always considered myself a lifelong learner and an autodidact. Throughout my career, I transitioned from maintaining signals equipment in the Department of Defense, to writing the first web firewalls for Charles Schwab, to leading massive software engineering teams, to opening a retail store focused on science and art. None of those leaps were made because I already knew all the answers. They happened because I was willing to be a beginner. Whether you are studying drone flight control or reading up on quantum computing, never lose your curiosity. The world is vastly interesting if you are willing to study it.

Solve Real Problems Technology for the sake of technology is just noise. The best things I ever built—whether it was a platform to track retail foot traffic, a visual resume service, or this exact digital vault—were born out of a simple frustration: *"There has to be a better way to do this."* When you encounter friction in your life, don't just complain about it. Look at it as an opportunity to build a solution.

Embrace the Pivot In software development, we use Agile methodologies to rapidly test ideas, adapt to failures, and improve. Life works exactly the same way. You will launch projects that fail. You will make plans that fall apart. Do not let the failure define you. Treat it like a prototype: extract the data, figure out what broke, and build the next iteration of your life a little bit stronger.

Protect Your People At the end of the day, the companies I built and the patents I hold mean very little compared to the people I love. Serving as an executor for my parents taught me a harsh but profound lesson: the ultimate act of love is preparing for your absence. We cannot control when we leave this world, but we can control the mess we

leave behind. Take care of each other, communicate clearly, and never let the people you love doubt how much they mean to you.

I am incredibly proud of the life I have lived, and I am even prouder to have shared it with you.

With all my love,

Mike

Leave more than just a bank account behind. An Ethical Will allows you to pass down your values, stories, and hard-earned wisdom to the next generation. Secure your legacy in a private vault that only unlocks when the time is right.

Start organizing your legacy today at <https://mylastwords.life.vu/>

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