

Famous Quotes

I used a quote from Omar Bradley “Ours is a world of nuclear giants and ethical infants. We know more about war than we know about peace, more about killing than we know about living.” a couple weeks ago, so I decided to find more quotes from famous people. As I was watching Attorney General Sessions respond to congressional questions, I found this Mark Twain quote very appropriate – “If you tell the truth, you don’t have to remember anything.” I’ve used a slightly different version throughout my life – “If you always tell the truth, you don’t have to remember to whom you lied.”

From President “I like Ike” Eisenhower, I found “Leadership is the art of getting someone else to do something you want done because he wants to do it.” This is similar to his predecessor Harry Truman A leader is the man who has the ability to get other people to do what they don't want to do, and like it.” I remember working at MSUM and the best way to encourage my supervisor to take an action was to convince him that it was his idea in the beginning. It nearly always worked. Another belief I had as a supervisor was to hire the most talented people, give them good instructions and encourage them to do their job. Micro-management seldom works. I also learned that stopping by all of my employees work area on a regular basis was good for morale. Management is not easy, it requires work, thought and most of all encouragement. This is similar to what General George Patton said “Never tell people how to do things. Tell them what to do and they will surprise you with their ingenuity.” Many times they will come up with a much better solution. As we all know in the technology field, there is more than one way to accomplish a task or solve a problem. Our challenge is to find the best way. Colin Powell, who I admire, gave us these words “There are no secrets to success. It is the result of preparation, hard work, learning from failure.”

The final quote from military people is from US Marine Corps General Lewis ‘Chesty’ Puller who fought in WWII and Korea "All right, they're on our left, they're on our right, they're in front of us, they're behind us...they can't get away this time." And when one of his Marines asked for permission to be married, “Son, when the Marine Corps wants you to have a wife, you will be issued one.”

From my days as a student studying for my Masters degree in Counseling, I found the words of Albert Ellis very meaningful “The best years of your life are the ones in which you decide your problems are your own. You do not blame them on your mother, the ecology, or the president. You realize that you control your own destiny. Now for the one I developed for myself “Search the future for vision, review the past for knowledge”