

Preface

We all come from somewhere. For me, that “somewhere” is Naples, New York—a small town that taught me the meaning of community, connection, and character. But this story isn’t just about a place. It’s about the people who shaped me, the values that guided me, and the life I’ve tried to live with integrity, humor, and heart.

A Hawks Tale is my way of honoring the legacy I inherited and the one I hope to leave behind. It’s a reflection on family—both the one I was born into and the one I built through friendship and love. It’s a celebration of resilience, of finding your voice when it matters most, and of choosing to show up for others even when life gets hard.

I wrote this memoir for my children and grandchildren, so they would know not just what I did, but who I am. I wrote it for the people of Naples who gave me a sense of belonging and purpose. And I wrote it for anyone who has faced adversity and come out the other side more grounded, more grateful, and more connected to what truly matters.

This isn’t a book of accomplishments—it’s a book of meaning. A record of a life lived with laughter, with service, with faith, and with love.

My hope is that as you read these pages, you’ll not only learn about my story—but feel invited to reflect on your own.