

I got nuthin'

Seven decades in and I got nuthin'

Decade One

I was born in 1955. A baby boomer. I am now in my seventh decade, and it is time to reflect and pass along my life's experience and wisdom.

Problem is? I got nuthin'

Decade Two



The 60's

You would think growing up in the 60's I would have something relevant to say about JFK getting shot, followed by Jack Ruby shooting Lee Harvey Oswald on live TV.

And you think the Kardashians are reality TV?

Everyone who was aware of the world in 1963 remembers where they were when Kennedy was shot. It is an important event in every baby boomer's life.

The next thing. We landed on the moon! We landed in black and white, but that is appropriate since the moon has always been white to various shades of gray. The space race was on, and we kicked some Soviet ass getting there. I think that should mean something, don't you?

My wisdom from the 60's?

Kennedy wealth can't buy longevity.

Decade Three



1970s

In 1970 I turned 15 and in 1980 25. The picture above is from the 70's, and represents almost every waking moment (and a good number of sleeping moments) of that decade. I was a teenager and was commanded to "make love, not war."

That war (Vietnam) ended, and the country began to heal from the divisiveness it created. I registered for the draft when I was 17 and was issued my selective service number. For those born after 1951 the selective service number was assigned when they pulled your birthday out of a hat. The lower the number, the higher the probability you would be drafted. Fortunately, the war ended because...

My number was 16.

It was an interesting era to live through. Today we honor and revere our nation's veterans, and rightfully so. In the 70's they were spat on.

My favorite music came from that decade, and I would argue there has not been a decade to rival it since. Elton John, Billy Joel, Stevie Wonder, James Taylor, Paul Simon (and sometimes Garfunkle), Eagles are legends still performing. My apologies to those whose favorites I left off the list.

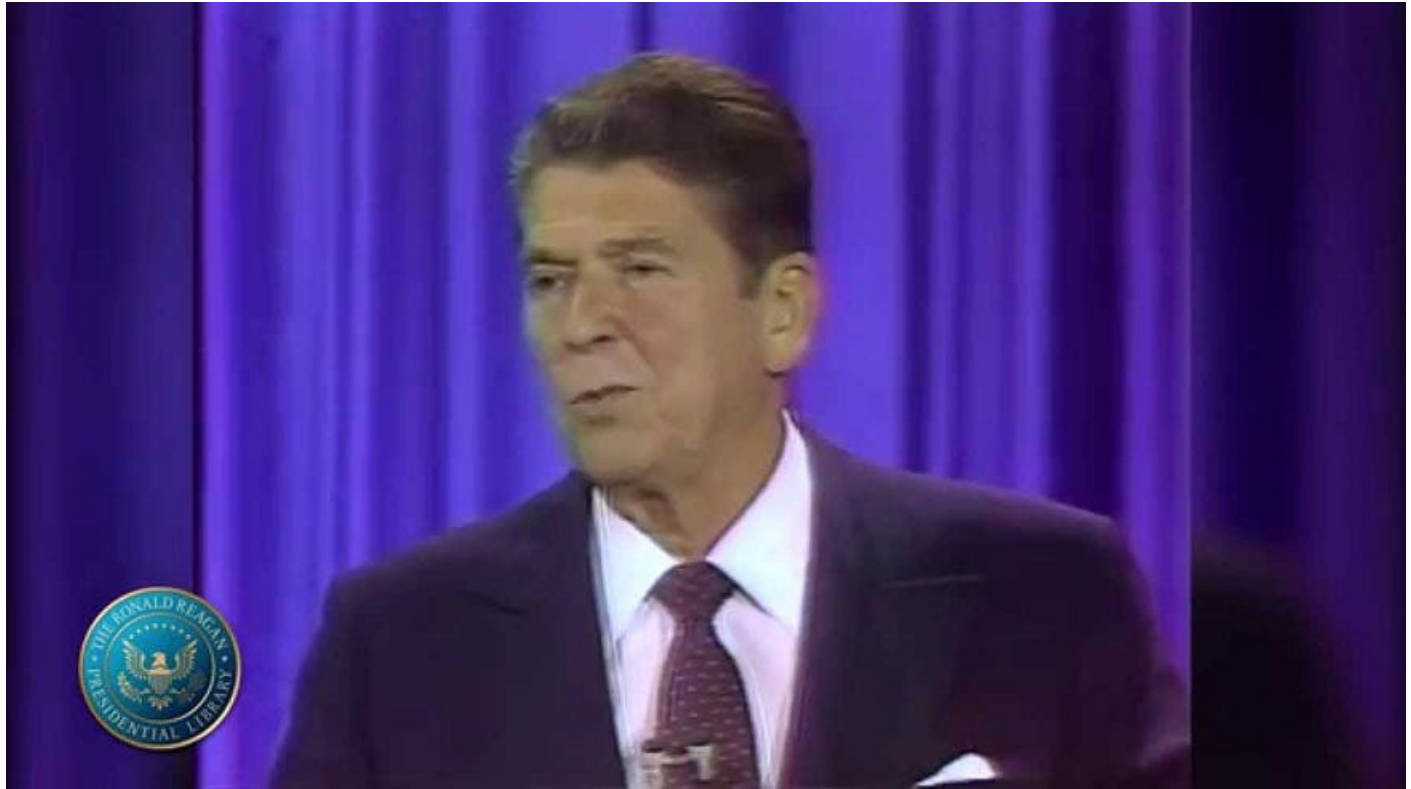
I graduated high school and college in 1973 and 1977 respectively. I learned to be an accountant and got my first real job. It made me "***The Cost Guy***".

The war, my career, and the music. What a decade!

My wisdom from the 70's?

Christie Brinkley was (and still is) a babe.

Decade Four



Ronald Reagan went from the silver screen to the White House. There are those who argue he spurred the economy with Reaganomics.

For me it was cool because while being “The Cost Guy”, my job was good enough to get married, buy a house and get an MBA.

My work world began to change as the PC was born. PC = Personal Computer, not Politically Correct. Thank you, Steve Jobs and Bill Gates.



Wikipedia

The Berlin Wall came down and the Cold War was eased to the extent that many of these signs came down. Better that the youth of the 80's didn't know what they were for.

The Cold War was replaced by an acceleration of Mid-East tensions.

We would learn the word terrorism. We had no idea what it would come to mean in later decades.

So much happened. So much to ponder. The world seemed to be changing in so many ways.

My wisdom for the 80's?

Disco Sucks!

Decade Five



ssplprints.com

Technology. The Internet.

I bought a home computer in the 90's. It cost \$6,500. Even though I was still *The Cost Guy*, I fancied myself *The Tech Guy*.

The kids came in the 90's and I missed most of the world events.

Anyone who has raised kids will understand why. Sponge Bob, Rugrats and the Power Puff girls ruled the home airwaves replacing Tom Brokaw.

What do I remember was the dawn of the new millennium.

The panic.

Planes will fall from the sky. Computers will crash. Armageddon.

Being a tech guy wannabe, I followed the impending doom with great interest. I even programmed a few formulas to covert two digit years to

four digits. It seemed to me that is what the millennium scare was all about. I stopped worrying about 2000.

I pondered my fortuitous placement in time to witness the dawn of the next thousand years. What were the odds for those of us who were here for it? One in a billion? Ten billion? I briefly thought of doing the calculation, but why? Maybe there is something deeply spiritual about it?

Naw, I got nuthin'

My 90's wisdom?

Kids change your life...forever

Decade Six

In decade two I witnessed two engineering marvels. The construction Verrazano Narrows Bridge and the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center.

In 2001 I watched live as the twin towers came down.

We learned the real definition of terrorism. Not since Pearl Harbor was there a direct attack on American soil.



Twin Towers

My recollection of those days were, we as a people, ***as Americans***, were united in a way that hadn't been since before I was born (World War II).

By the end of the decade, we were polarized by party politics.

What changed?

My opinion is that media is to blame. Polarization I suggest, started from talk radio fanatics, exacerbated by news media driven by an insatiable thirst for ratings.

Maybe it's cynical as I get on in years, but I understand things when I look for logic in terms of cause and effect.

Ratings means money. Ratings = Cause: Effect = Money

To my point, every story is “**Shocking**”, and every event is a “**Bombshell**”.

We watch through the commercials to be shocked and bombshelled because shocks and bombshells get ratings, mildly interesting and firecrackers don't.

The kids continued to demand my time, for which I have no regrets.

Given the state of terrorism, both foreign and domestic, I feared for the future of the next generation; probably the same way my parents feared for my generation due to the Cold War.

I made a choice to be single and was out of work for a year and a half. I am optimistic about the former and survived the latter thanks to my family. They are incredible.

Terrorism, sensationalism, and polarization for this decade.

My wisdom?

You can't get a job or a date without The Internet.

Decade Seven

Officially my seventh decade commenced on May 18, 2015. I used The Internet to search the events of that day.

Coincidentally the Internet ***Got Nuthin'***

Seriously the site <https://www.onthisday.com/date/2015/may> went from May 17, Canada defeats Russia for the IIHF World Championship, to May 19 where, UK inflation is negative for the first time since 1960 among other stories. The 18th? Nuthin'.

As of the day didn't happen. No wonder I got Nuthin'. It was predetermined.

I spent a lot of time working on this piece. After all, sixty-three years is a lot of time. Hopefully there are another three decades in my future for me to finally have sumthin'.

At this point, I realize we can worry about nuclear holocaust, terrorism, trade wars and what's up with the Kardashians.

Why?

It's a waste. Enjoy each day. Kiss and hug a loved one. Pet a dog. Breathe. Smile. Smell a flower. Tell more than one stranger to have a great day. Say thank you.

My wisdom is this. Enjoy. Maybe I got sumthin'?