

## Rick Jesinger

Nepotism is underrated! During my year as National Venturing President, I was able to honor those individuals most responsible for my success in Venturing (and life) on special days – my brother on his birthday and my mother on Mother's Day. But my step dad, Rick Jesinger, missed out. His birthday, December 31st, pre-dated the website's debut and our web team was on vacation over Father's Day. It is my pleasure to be able to highlight my dad, Rick Jesinger, as this week's Venturing Featured Mentor.



Although we live in the mountains of Idaho, Rick was originally a surfer boy from Santa Barbara, California. His early life was difficult. A twin, his sister Maureen, died in childbirth. An older brother passed away as a toddler before Rick was born. Rick's mother, a polio survivor, wore a full leg brace. When Rick was two or three, he contracted polio and had to remain in an iron lung for a few months. Although one side of his body was compromised by the disease (we tease him that he is ½ bionic, because one side has been surgically reconstructed), he played basketball in high school and Santa Barbara Junior College.

His interest in becoming an FBI agent began early. When he was in junior high school, he wrote J. Edgar Hoover and asked him how to become an FBI agent. Hoover responded, and Rick followed his suggestions. He graduated with a degree in Law Enforcement from Long Beach State and joined the Oakland California Police Department for three years. Not many polio survivors were able to meet the rigors of the FBI entrance exam; Rick did and began his career in Phoenix when Hoover was still Director of the FBI.

After duty in Texas and Washington, D.C., Rick was transferred to Las Vegas, where he became the Supervisor of the White Collar Crime Squad for the State of Nevada. His career was noteworthy: he was the first non-supervisory agent to testify in front of the U.S. Senate and House during his case successfully impeaching the first sitting Federal Judge. He served on the Drug Squad (and became its supervisor), working with a joint task force of FBI and Las Vegas Metro Police to shut down and incarcerate an international drug ring of hundreds of members. After September 11th, Rick was a supervisory intelligence officer, reviewing information for investigation in one of our nation's "hot spots". Rick retired from the FBI on December 31, 2001, his 57th birthday (because FBI agents carry weapons, they are subject to mandatory retirement at 57.) After a year of retirement, he became the personnel manager for the local general store, Chateau.

Rick has always been a dedicated public servant. He was president of his Kiwanis Club, Advisor to two high school Key Clubs, a member of Rotary, and a member of the Parish Council for Our Lady of the Snows Catholic Church. Rick is an omnipresent volunteer at events within our community.

As a youth, Rick was a Boy Scout, but quit as his basketball success increased. A natural father of two girls, he became involved in Scouting as an adult when he married into our family, serving as Assistant Scoutmaster, BSA Committee Member, and Venturing Crew Advisor, before becoming a Unit Commissioner and Council Venturing Chairman. Last week he served as a troop guide at Wood Badge W1-111-06 (he is an Eagle). Rick has taught Kodiak/Kodiak X at Philmont and Sea Base and will assist with a Kodiak next week at Camp Fife in Washington.

A frequent guest at Ethics Forums, Rick relates this story when asked if he has ever shot anyone. Within the FBI, every shot fired requires a lot of paperwork. Known as an agent who was good at paperwork, Rick sought every opportunity to avoid it. One day, when he was Supervisor of the Drug Squad, his team was set to bust a dealer in a strip mall located near a school, during a time when many children were present. The dealer made the agents and pulled a gun. Rick, observing from a car, first thought the perpetrator would shoot someone; then he feared one of his agents would shoot and miss, hitting a spectator. Responding quickly, he put his car in gear and ran into the dealer, knocking him to the ground (the dealer later thanked Rick for saving his life, knowing he was outnumbered). Rick tells Venturers that there is less paperwork in the FBI for running down a drug dealer with a car than there is for shooting one!

Rick Jesinger has been my dad for nine years and my life has been much better for it. He has been my father figure in every way, supporting me in all of my diverse activities. He even is an Assistant Girl Scout Advisor! We share the same wacky sense of humor; he is a fun person to be around. Rick's smile can brighten up the worst day and his hugs make everything better. He maintains a sense of humor in even the most challenging situations – like teaching me to ride a bike. Rick is my designated airport chauffer for early morning/late night departures, checking to see that I successfully clear security. He is the greatest fan of my special chocolate chip cookies, frequently consuming the batch before sunrise. Rick is a patient, kind, funny guy who has helped me live my dreams. I am so happy that he is a part of my life.