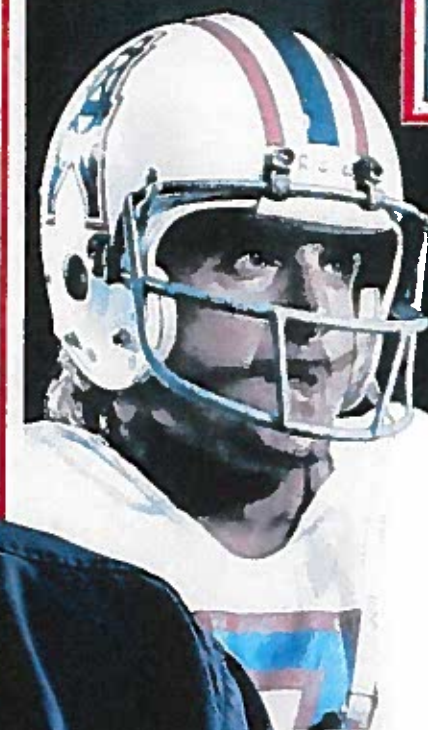


RIVER OAKS

Living



DAN PASTORINI: *The Man Underneath it All*

Inside *this issue:*

- Be An Angel Charity
- John Daugherty 50th Anniversary
- Pin Oak Sporting Clays Houston Gun Club
- Joanne King Herring - The Denali Foundation



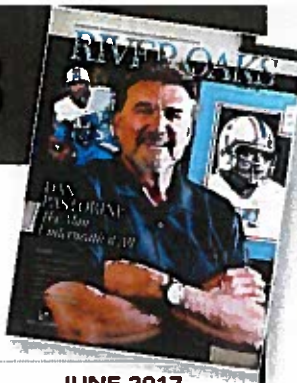
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RIVER OAKS Living

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Dear River Oaks Residents,

An Angel, by definition is a spiritual being superior to humans. Angels are typically described as benevolent and endowed with wisdom and knowledge. Most of them serve as intermediaries between Heaven and Earth, or as guardian spirits. I believe there are angels living among us. My wife and I recently attended the Awards Ceremony for the Be An Angel Children's Charity. Be An Angel is an organization that helps children with multiple disabilities and profound deafness. Kristina and I regularly attend many events for the magazine, however this one was uniquely special above any we have attended thus far. This event stood out above all of the others because there was an angel in our midst this night, her name was Myra.

Myra is the embodiment of an angel here on earth. Having had cerebral palsy since birth she will always need assistance & be wheel chair bound. She was asked to speak at the ceremony, a task which was not easy for her to do, however she did manage quite well. Myra started by thanking God for all of us and by explaining how blessed she is! She told how Be An Angel has allowed her to experience life as a regular person through their camp. She said, "I can do all the things at camp like horseback riding & the 30 foot zip line which my parents are afraid to do." Myra went on to say how one day she would like to be a teacher. This young girl doesn't realize how severely limited she is, only that she is different and that God has blessed her deeply. She is a very grateful person whom is obviously filled with the spirit of God. Myra had us all in tears; I have never seen a person move so many people like she did. Myra stole the show! Needless to say the night was a smashing success. Be Angel raised over \$525,000 that night.

Alabama's song "Angels among Us" was played at the ceremony in accompaniment to Myra's story. There couldn't have been more perfect words to describe what we all can learn from Myra. They go something like this: "Oh, I believe there are Angels Among Us, Sent down to us from somewhere up above. They come to you and me in our darkest hours, To show us how to live, To teach us how to give, To guide us with a light of love. When life held troubled times And had me down on my knees, There's always been someone, To come along and comfort me, A kind word from a stranger, To lend a helping hand, A phone call from a friend, Just to say I understand, Now ain't it kind of funny, At the dark end of the road, Someone lights the way with just a single ray of hope." My parting words for you all this month, we can all be someone's ray of Hope!

Please remember this is YOUR publication.

Send us stories about your children and their achievements, your pets along with photos, vacation spots you want your neighbors to know about and photos. Sharing is caring; we all have something to share. *Your neighbors care more than you think!*



IN SERVICE, GOD BLESS YOU ALL!

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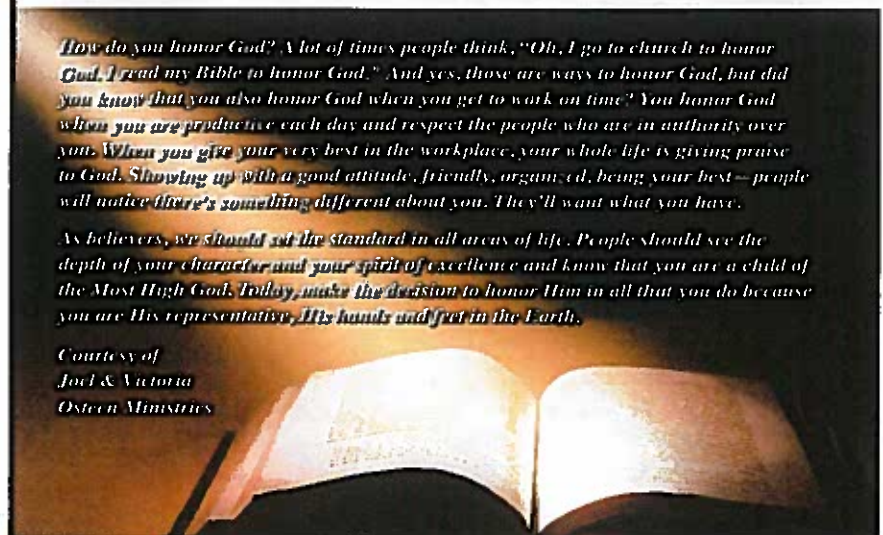
Best Regards,
 Carlos Sandoval | Publisher



How do you honor God? A lot of times people think, "Oh, I go to church to honor God. I read my Bible to honor God." And yes, those are ways to honor God, but did you know that you also honor God when you get to work on time? You honor God when you are productive each day and respect the people who are in authority over you. When you give your very best in the workplace, your whole life is giving praise to God. Showing up with a good attitude, friendly, organized, being your best—people will notice there's something different about you. They'll want what you have.

As believers, we should set the standard in all areas of life. People should see the depth of your character and your spirit of excellence and know that you are a child of the Most High God. Today, make the decision to honor Him in all that you do because you are His representative, His hands and feet in the Earth.

Courtesy of
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LUV YA BLUE,

Appreciating Life & Aging Gracefully

By Kristina Sandoval | Photo by Al Torres Photography

It was 1978. The city of Houston's beloved Oilers were returning from the AFC Championship game against the Pittsburgh Steelers.

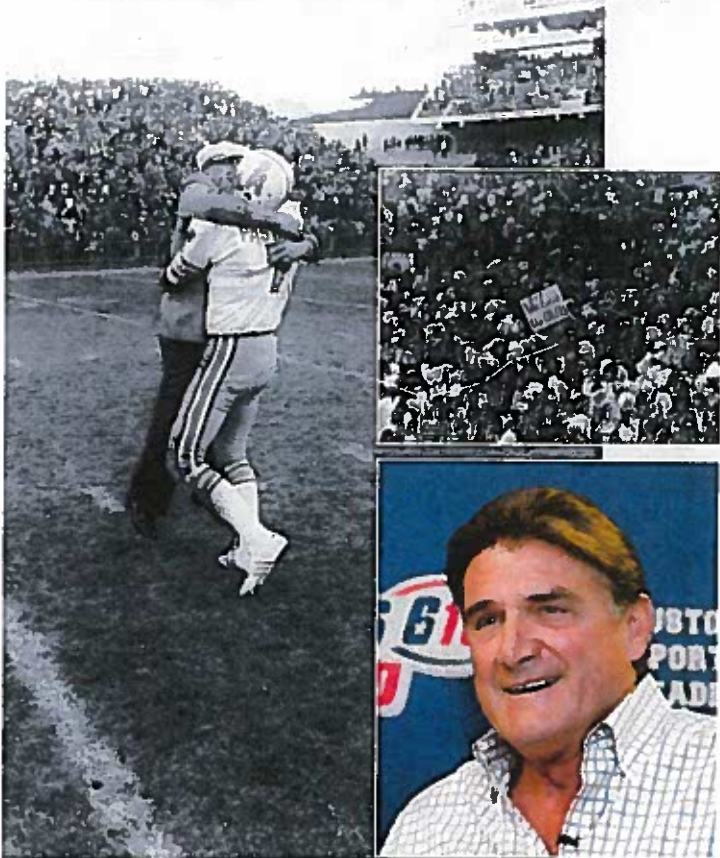
Our hometown heroes were coming home in defeat, having just lost the game to the reigning football dynasty, and along with it, any hopes of a victorious Super Bowl run to crown the 1978 season. Dan Pastorini, first round draft pick for the Oilers, threw for 200 yards that game. As Dan and I sit and talk, it's not the championship game he describes in complete and utter detail to me, but the arrival home after the game to the never seen before or since over-the-top welcome, after a loss mind you, by the enraptured "Luv ya Blue" fans. "The Luv ya Blue fans were the greatest fans in the world" Dan says, "and they still remember. It was an experience I'll never forget, it was worth it, all the aches and pains, all the heartbreaks, all the injuries and setbacks, everything was worth it." The relationship between the Houston Oilers and the "Luv ya Blue" fans was a living, passionate thing that transcended every invisible boundary which normally defined a football team / fan relationship. It was something most of us will never see the likes of. Sports writer Chris Wesseling described it as a "torrid love affair between a city and a team" and a relationship in which the Oilers were "blessed with the serendipity to embody the perfect team in the perfect town at the perfect time." As Dan walks me through the memory of not only that night but an equally moving repeat performance by the fans a year later, his face lights up; obviously every aspect of the phenomenon is etched not just in his memory but in that place in the heart we all have, that sacred corner we save for those most special of experiences. "People talk about being in the stadium that night when we came in. They announced to us on the airplane, 'You're not going to believe this guys but you've got a big turnout at the dome welcoming you guys back.' And they, rather than off-loading us from the plane onto our buses on the tarmac, marched us through the terminal. The terminal was packed. We had a walk way we could barely fit through, people ten deep on each side, all of the way out to the buses in the front. We got on the buses and came down JFK Boulevard from Intercontinental. You couldn't find a parking space on either side of the road all of the way down JFK, the Beltway, 45, all the way to the dome. You couldn't find a parking space anywhere. There were people on their cars, flashing their headlights, honking their horns and yelling. That was 1978 and '79. And '79 was even better than



'78, we couldn't believe it. It was incredible. People just talk about 50 or 60 thousand fans in the dome, but there had to be a half a million people between there and the airport, welcoming us back. I've never seen anything like it. The city has never seen anything like it. Even with the basketball championships, they've never seen "Luv ya Blue." And I really wish the best for the Texans because for as long as I'm alive I want to see it. But as long as I live I'll never forget it. If I die tomorrow, I will know we were the best in the city. We are proud of that. We had a good bunch of men, we had a great leader."

Dan's bigness of heart translated into herculean toughness on the field. After his time as an Oiler, Dan moved on to play for Oakland, then L.A. and finally Philadelphia. With a reputation as one of the tougher quarterbacks in an era in which wearing pads meant only the briefest of protection compared to what our players benefit from today, Dan missed only five regular season games throughout his eight-year career with the Oilers. Suffering and playing through 38 broken ribs, 12 concussions, a broken nose, fractured clavicle, four separated shoulders and a broken tibia, he was the first player ever to wear the a "flak jacket" under his uniform to protect his broken ribs. The two things he is best known for he says: being the first to wear the "flak jacket" and throwing quite possibly the most fateful touchdown pass in NFL history, a controversial moment which led to the conception of instant replay.

Dan's life off the field was every bit as fast-paced as his on-field performances. Pushing fast-living to its limits, he spent his days drag-racing, racing hydroplane boats, as well as acting in both television and movie roles (he starred alongside Lee Majors in the movie Killer Fish). Quite the playboy, he dated Farrah Fawcett, appeared in Playgirl magazine and married Playboy model June Wilkinson. He never backed down from anyone or anything, sometimes suffering dire consequences. All in all, his life has been beyond interesting, the stuff you write books about. He lived out some glamorous highs, but also endured the low-down lows that are sure to follow when you so boldly look fate so often in the eye. "Being a young kid from a small town, Sonora, California, population 1,000 at the time, coming into the city with hundreds of 1,000's of people, hearing from them 'You are the next savior that's going to take us to the Super Bowl' and what not, being the number one draft choice, meeting people was not dif-



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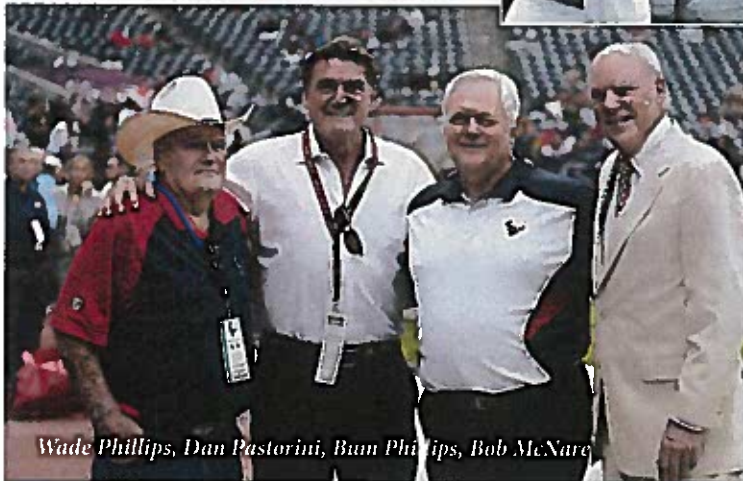
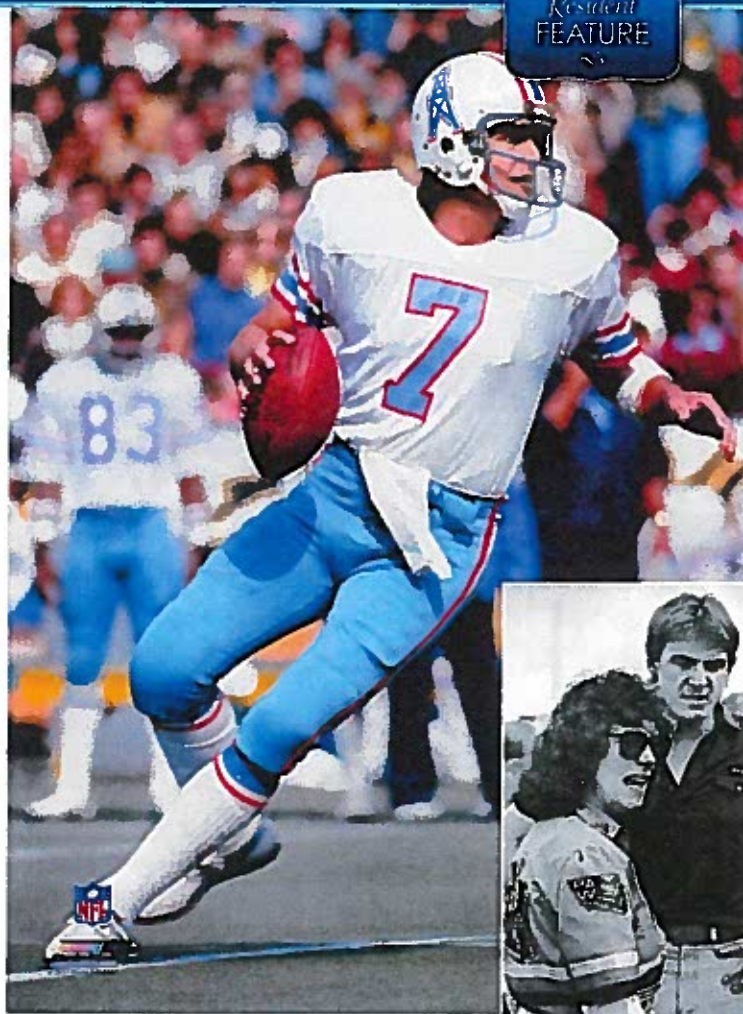
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difficult, there were plenty of distractions. I was immature. I was young. I always took pride in my work but I obviously had a lot of fun too." He would like to think he has learned and gotten better and gleaned some wisdom along the way. It was with this thought in his mind that he recorded the tragedy and triumph of his golden life into an autobiography. Taking Flak: My Life in the Fast Lane is his story, it is his telling of the "indulgent, brilliant, cursed and humbling" life he has lived. A very big part of his story he says, the purpose of the book even, was to tell about his DWI. "It was 7 years ago on April 26th. He says writing the book was a cathartic experience for him, made even more satisfying due to the response it has elicited from others, "People come up to me after the fact and say 'I read your book, you helped me to face my demons'. So that was worth it all, right there. People sometimes think it is all roses, but you know the duality of man vs. celebrity is kind of convoluted a little bit, there are some different bumps in the road along the way. We are all suspect."

These days, Dan has a heart for charity. He's been a part of Be An Angel Children's Charity since its inception in 1984, and now serves as an Executive Vice Chairman. This very special children's charity is very near and dear to him he says. "Be An Angel improves the quality of life for profoundly deaf kids and families dealing with multiple handicapped children by providing anything from hearing aids to walkers, wheel chairs, playgrounds, beds, anything to help handicapped children. They're a great organization that's been around for many years. For example, TH Rogers is a school for handicapped kids and it's also a Charter School, so those kids are mingling with the handicap kids every and day. It creates a unique experience, having an environment with the non-handicapped children working with those that are."

Every year Dan holds a golf tournament and gala to benefit Be An Angel and excitedly says this year's event will be the biggest and the best so far. Having added a concert and poker tournament into the golf tournament and gala lineup, this year's extended weekend event, set for October 14th-16th, is sure to be the must-attend party of the season, if not year.

Dan says his plans for the future include continuing his work with Be An Angel as well as focusing on his line of seasonings and rubs. Inspired by Dan's parents and as a tribute to them, this award-winning line is currently sold in HEB, SPEC'S, Costco and some Randall's stores but Dan says they are now working on developing an online presence as well.



Wade Phillips, Dan Pastorini, Bum Phillips, Bob McNair



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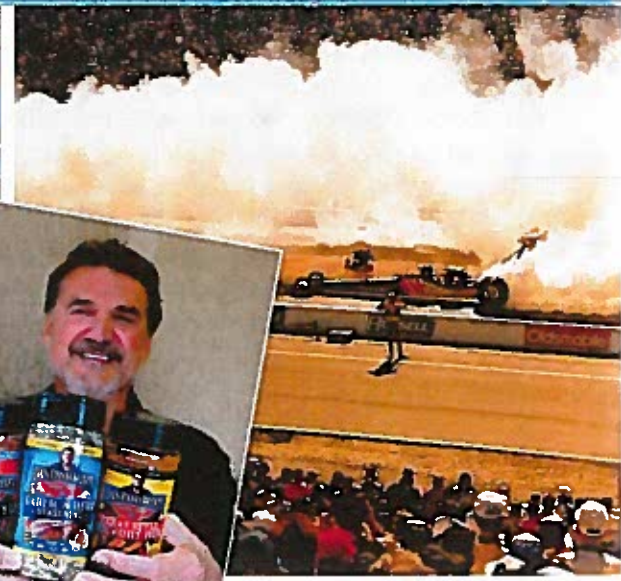
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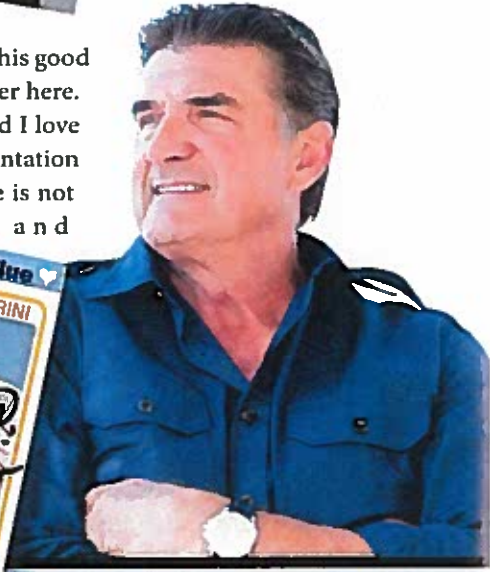
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"We have seasonings and rubs for everything: chicken, fish, beef, pork, you name it, spaghetti. We use 17 different herbs and spices." Dan says they realized they had perfected the recipe one day when he threw it on some french fries.

had perfected the recipe one

Looking forward, Dan says he is truly sure he'll stay in Texas, despite his California roots. This good ole boy, who was here to witness the booming oil years says, "I came here and made my career here. I love the city and I have chosen to stay here because of the people here, I just love Texas and I love Houstonians and I've always gravitated back here and it's become my home. I've got documentation where I was officially voted by the House of Representatives as an official Texan. My future is not what it was 50 years ago. Getting older, I've gotten a little more melancholy more appreciative of my life and my friends. When you're a kid, you're dreaming and you've got all of these ambitions. I look back and I've done some things that I regret, but also some things I'm proud of. What I'm doing now, I enjoy it and the more we can help people the more I'm gratified. I'm going to cherish the years I've got left. Hey, if I've got 12 or 15 more it's been a good run. I just want to enjoy the rest of my life with those that I love. I'm more at peace now than ever before."



Do you know a neighbor who has a story to share? Nominate your neighbor to be featured in one of our upcoming issues! Contact us at csandoval@bestversionmedia.com or vvance@bestversionmedia.com.

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