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On a Personal Note....Getting to Know Mark (maybe more than you ever wanted to know)

Mark was born and raised in Florence, AL. His father immigrated to the United States from Italy in the early 1930s when he was in his late teens. He met Mark's mother in Waynesboro, TN and they moved to Florence, AL and called it home. Mark is one of five children, having 4 brothers and a sister. Mark is the youngest of the brothers and the sister is the youngest of all the children. His dad was a builder in Florence and also worked masonry on bridges on the Natchez Trace. Mark and his brother helped their dad build their family home in 1976. After graduating from Bradshaw High School he accepted a construction position at the Yellow Creek Nuclear Plant in Iuka, MS and worked until it was closed in the 80's.

Mark moved to Huntsville in 1987 and began a 14-year career in precision welding in the aerospace industry getting to work on numerous prototypes that flew on the space shuttle. After getting lay-off papers due to a government contract ending, he decided, in January 2002, to start Remodeling Plus.

Diane was born in Memphis, TN and her dad moved the family to Huntsville, AL in the early 60s to accept a job at NASA working in the computer lab. One really neat event that she (sorta) remembers is attending the launch of Apollo 11, where Neal Armstrong walked on the moon. Her parents met in Memphis at a recording signing party. (If you're interested in more details on that you can find it below.) Diane has a sister, Lisa, that lives in Pennsylvania with her family and 2 of their grown kids and families. After graduating from Berachah Academy Diane attended Bob Jones University in Greenville, SC and received a B.S. degree in Business. She started working at Teledyne Brown Engineering in 1984 and left in 2008 to work with Mark at Action Builders Inc.

Mark and Diane met in May 2001 while both working at Teledyne Brown Engineering. Mark got laid off a month before their wedding in November 2001. Who would have thought that getting laid off was the best thing that ever happened as it led to Remodeling Plus in 2002 and Action Builders in 2003!

In 2019 Mark and Diane started having serious conversations about getting a dog. Mark had not had a dog since high school and Diane had never had a pet. A home builder friend of Mark's has a Belgium Malinois that he would bring to some of the home builder meetings so Mark decided to talk with him about getting a dog. We ended up talking with a Belgium Malinois breeder in Blue Mountain, MS and went there on January 20, 2020 to pick up our absolutely adorable 8-week-old Kona. For those who are not familiar with a Belgium Malinois, the Navy Seals use that breed on a lot on their missions and we've been told that

is the breed that got Bad Daddy. Talk about a life changing experience....that's how we feel about Kona. He brings us so much love and joy!

You might wonder what we like to do in our spare time when we're not building homes. We love to take Kona hiking! And living on 5 acres gives a lot of play space at home for us to enjoy with Kona. We also enjoy gardening. In three of the four seasons you will find us outside most evenings, whether it is playing with Kona, burning in the firepit, watering plants and vegetables, or whatever we find that needs to be done. We also love watching Alabama football (Roll Tide!) and watching movies in our theater room.

As you can see in the beautiful custom homes that Mark builds, creativity is a part of who he is. He enjoys spending time in his workshop. He built a really cool French cleat mounting system on two walls in the workshop. He has built several beautiful tables for their home from live edge wood and has also built several decorative pieces. His latest project was building custom shelving in their Laundry Room.

What are their favorite foods you might ask? With Mark's dad being Italian it probably comes as no surprise that Mark's favorite food is....Italian. His favorite go-to dessert is either carrot cake or pecan pie. Believe it or not his favorite carrot cake comes from Publix. Diane's favorite food is their weekly grilling salmon on the Traeger. Her favorite restaurant is probably BJ's because of their Pizookie that she and Mark love to share. Her all-time favorite dessert is the chocolate chip cookie at Chick-Fil-A. She claims they are THE best cookie ever. In the winter time you might catch Mark & Diane cooking a roast or boston butt in their wood burn fireplace. Talk about delicious!

Mark and Diane enjoy being a part of Church of the Highlands. Diane is involved with the Campus Host Team, where she serves as a door greeter each week. She is also involved with the A-Team for more behind the scenes activities. Mark and Diane are both involved with the Letters of Hope. We love the difference our church makes in the community by providing us opportunities to serve and grow!

Lastly for you music buffs out there we thought we'd include a brief synopsis of Diane's dad's brief dive into the music industry in the late '50s and 60's, which started in Memphis, TN. From 1955-1959 her dad played guitar for several bands and worked with notable artists such as Carl Perkins, Elvis Presley, Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis, Howln' Wolf, and Roy Orbison. His relationship with Charlie Feathers, the King of Rockabilly, was what sparked his musical career and with Jody Chastain and Jimmy Swonis they recorded several songs including "I Can't Hardly Stand It." While working at NASA during the day in the Computation Lab, he and Johnny Cash co-wrote "You Don't Hear." Kitty Wells recorded the song in 1965 and it reached #2 on the country music charts. The song "Can't Hardly Stand It" was played in Quentin Tarantino's Kill Bill volume 2 soundtrack in 2004.