

Tammy Spurgeon Nickell

Mr. Vranish was my DECA teacher from 83-84 to 1986; the year I graduated. I have a few memories I would like to share with everyone.

Well, Mr. V, you really had a bigger influence on me than you know. Those two years that I was part of DECA (1987-1988) made me wiser. You saw each of us students as individuals. I learned from you that all things break down to black or white. No shades of grey. It is, or it isn't. You do, or you don't. I use this even today when I evaluate my team members on their yearly review.

You taught me that we should always consider the source. Never believe everything that you hear. I can remember being in your class and you noticed the book I was reading. It presented itself (to me) like a real history of events. You gave me a little history lesson that day and ever since, I have paid attention to the source.

You gave us your TRUST without having earned it first. Working the candy counter for example and learning how to make screen prints on T-shirts. I still check printed tees like you taught us to by pulling the material to see if the print cracks. I gave up on that because they just don't make them like we use to. One of the biggest moments of my senior year was when you let me drive your car in the Homecoming parade. I only drove like 5 MPH, but I felt special because you trusted me with your car. Of course, I think you really wanted to ride on the hood!

You had great business sense. We were able to go on many field trips because of it. I got to go to my first and only NBA game, ice skating, and several other places that I can't remember. One year, you even encouraged me to put myself out there and run for an elected position as a member of the DECA club. It was out of my comfort zone and I didn't get elected, but it didn't matter. At least I tried!

Era: Huffman ISD Job: 1982 - 1988

Relationship: Tammy was a person who Paul enjoyed as she had a very friendly personality, was eager to learn, and was a person who he felt he really could count on. We stay in touch by Facebook, and Tammy looks just like she did while in high school – simply amazing! But then, she was pretty darn amazing in a whole lot of ways back then too!