

Client Spotlight - Ed Thaete

Karl: [Ed, you turn 90 this April. What tips might you give to someone for living a long & healthy life?](#)

Ed: Oh heavens, just that I had a very loving wife who fed me just right. And, quite honestly, I never smoked. I can't say that I never drank, cuz I did, and still do! But some of the things that really injure your body, I never did. I tried one cigarette and I said, "That's not for me". And I guess I had good genes because my mother lived to 92 ½, and my dad lived to 90.

Karl: [Wow, did you have a regular exercise routine?](#)

Ed: Well, I was always active, yes, but I never paid any attention to getting up and running around the block every morning. And I like playing golf – only recently, however, in the last 2 – 3 years, have I taken a cart!

Karl: That is good exercise. [And you enjoyed a long marriage with your late wife, Geraldine, what made it so successful?](#)

Ed: Oh heavens, well... I guess we loved each other through thick and thin. You know, you don't get married and raise 9 kids without having some disagreements, but they were always ones we could settle. We knelt down by our bed every night and said prayers. It's hard to kneel down and say prayers with somebody and be mad at them. So, it never really lasted too long if we had a disagreement – Our final years were just magnificent.

Karl: [How many years were you married?](#)

Ed: Oh, 61 ½.

Karl: That's fantastic! [So your faith had a lot to do with it?](#)

Ed: Oh yes - When you kneel as we did, and were married at Mass, you make all these promises and you're making them in front of God, and you don't fool around, ha-ha! But, at any rate, that's the reason I'm sure.

Karl: [You have reached a comfortable retirement and have become financially independent. What were some of your best, and your worst decisions financially?](#)

Ed: As far as decisions go, we really weren't thinking about retirement ; when you are busy raising children, and having 9, in particular. We didn't think about that until...well, I'd like to think the Holy Spirit knocked me in the head and "Listen, you've got to work on getting something for retirement." And then we talked to you.

Karl: [So you're saying that maybe one of your better decisions was to maybe ask for some help, and to seek out someone to help you plan for things?](#)

Ed: That's right - Before that, we had not made any decisions on what we were going to do.

Karl: Too busy with the kids, my goodness, 9 kids, that's a big deal! You mentioned once that she used to get up and make breakfast every morning for the whole family! She must have gotten up at the crack of dawn?

Ed: I don't remember the crack of dawn, but it was early for sure.

Karl: [So, how about some of your decisions that maybe weren't so good – What might we learn from them?](#)

Ed: I had a grandfather who was a stockbroker. He was a millionaire, and he lost every dime in the crash. But he came back and he still had a very comfortable living. He was able to do that, but none of that rubbed off on me.

Karl: [Ed, you lead a busy and active lifestyle. What motivates you the most?](#)

Ed: Well right now, what motivates me the most is to keep an active lifestyle because I'm alone. I don't have Gerry anymore. I miss her terribly and if I can keep busy, it keeps some of the pain out. When you lose someone that you've loved after 61 ½ years of marriage, well...it's not like a light switch. You can't turn that on and off. I feel that I work at keeping busier than I really need to be, sometimes, a little too busy, but so be it. I just miss her and it helps me to bridge that loneliness gap.

Karl: [Tell me about the work you do at your church - how many hours a week do you volunteer there?](#)

Ed: Oh heavens, I don't know. Per week it is probably about 20 hours. Like today, when I leave here, I will go down there and I can start to get things ready for the weekend. It's a routine, just a lot of little things that I do to set up before the start of the Mass. I've been there so long doing this, like 40 years, so I know where everything is.

Karl: Wow, 40 years! They must love you there!

Ed: Ha...I'm sure they do - And I'm sure the Pastor is saying, "Gee, at 90, I don't know how much longer this guy's going to last, ha-ha."

Karl: Oh, they're probably so happy that you're helping them out. You're like a fixture there. Ok, so it sounds like volunteering at your church motivates you and helps keep you busy since Gerry's passing?

Ed: Yes, that's exactly right.

Karl: [Okay – last question; you served our country as a B-17 bomber pilot in WWII, do you have an exciting experience that you might want to share?](#)

Ed: Oh, well there were a couple - one is written up here in this paper. I think that it was Mission #7, an early mission. And it was a really stressful situation, trying to get back to base after being shot up after a run, and with only one engine working and very little fuel. We made it, barely, and no lives were lost.

Karl: I'll read this here...It says: Edward H. Thaete III, serial #0829336, 2nd Lieutenant Army Air Force, United States Army, for extraordinary achievement. [So you were awarded a medal?](#)

Ed: Yes, I got a medal. It was a Distinguished Flying Cross, except I'm not sure where it is right now.

Karl: Wow, congratulations and thank you for your service! We want you to know that we really appreciate your sharing your thoughts and being our first **Client Spotlight** Interviewee!