



## Wisdom is Progress

*Dr. Scott V. Nicol, Superintendent*

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Sudha Murty, an Indian educator, author, and philanthropist, once stated, *“During my younger days, we didn't have digital media or electronic gadgets the way we do now. So the best part of my day was the one I spent either in listening to stories from my elders or reading them.”*

As a youth, my parents and I would travel to North Jersey for Christmas. It was always so exciting. Of course, the prospect of receiving gifts was part of the excitement but it was much more than that. My PaPa was a World War II Marine who fought at Iwo Jima. He would tell stories of playing in the overseas U.S. Marine football league which led to his adventures attending the first thirteen Super Bowls, and then to his efforts with the New York Giants' Football Boosters and dinner events with NFL quarterback legend, Y.A. Tittle. His stories meant something to me, for they were an important part of his life with wisdom he gleaned over decades that he wanted to share. Thank you, Charlie Nicol.

Other than battling with the TV antenna from time to time, I was unplugged from technology during my formative years, the late 1970's through the mid-'80s. It wasn't until recently that I realized how fortunate I was to not have a smartphone distract me from listening to my PaPa. It was a privilege—and of course, easier—to be unplugged back then.

Times are different in 2022, as technology continues to progress and be woven into our everyday lives, may the awareness and wisdom instilled in me from the stories of my PaPa remain at the forefront of my interactions with family and friends. It is so important to be present for our loved ones, especially during times like the holiday season. For me, using that wisdom and choosing to be present and unplugged, is progress.

Wisdom is progress, linking generations to generations over decades and centuries with the holidays serving as a foundation. Whether you celebrate Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Diwali (in October), or another tradition, may you be present for yourself and your loved ones enjoying whatever wisdom you may acquire during your amazing life.

May we lift each other up, with sincere peace and love.