



RiseZine

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Welcome to **RiseZine** our quarterly electronic magazine (ezine) that can help you solve problems in your business and your life. I strive to bring you inspiration from my life experiences and the insight I gained during the twenty (20) years I spent as a Judge of the Denver County Court participating in the transformation of lives. I'm convinced that those experiences heighten our knowledge, sensitivity and outlook on the issues we face in our business and our lives. I am honored to share your precious time with you.

What's your GPA?

Last month I was in Denver, Colorado for the Jack and Jill Beautillion. The Beautillion is a Gala for academically successful graduating high school senior boys who also serve their communities outside the classroom. Kyle N. Patterson, my grandson, was one of the honorees. On the afternoon before the big event, with just the two of us in the house, Kyle and I sat down together and I asked him to tell me what this event meant to him. He told me he remembered when his brother was honored two years earlier and how exciting it was for him to serve a 'junior attendee' at his brother's Beautillion. He knew from that time that he wanted to be a Beau and that inspired him to work hard to be selected. It requires more than a high **Grade Point Average (GPA)** to achieve that honor. As you will learn from this article, Kyle has always known what he wanted in his life. I asked him if he would like to collaborate on this article since I think many of my subscribers would be inspired by his story. Consistent with the format I favor for my **RiseZine**, I needed a mnemonic to help frame Kyle's story. I had just gone to the movies to see the new western "True Grit" and thought that the title had "Kyle" written all over it. **Kyle** has always exhibited **Grit, Passion and Achievement** for defined goals, so we had the acrostic for this article, **GPA**. What follows is the first time anyone has written copy for my RiseZine in its six year history. I am proud to introduce my grandson, **Kyle N. Patterson** who, in his own words, tells his story of **GRIT, PASSION and ACHIEVEMENT**:

G = GRIT: Webster defines this attribute as firmness of character, indomitable spirit;

P = PASSION: A strong fondness, enthusiasm or desire for anything;

A = ACHIEVEMENT: Something accomplished by superior ability, special effort, or great courage.

G rit

“For as long as I can remember, I've looked down at the end of the bed and noticed that something was missing. While waking up with two feet may be customary to most, for me it would be rather alarming. My name is Kyle Patterson. I'm 17 years old, and I've had 23 surgeries (that's an average of 1.35 surgeries per year for all the math geeks). These surgeries were necessary because of a rare disease I was born with called **Fibular Hemimelia**. The disease results in the lack of the fibular bone between the knee and ankle of my right leg. After several surgical attempts to grow the bone, ultimately the doctors amputated my leg at the knee. While none of it seems fun, and it really isn't, it has become part of daily life. I wear a prosthesis that gives me the ability to walk and accomplish (get done) most of the mundane tasks of daily living. But, the true grit lies in the blessing that I am here. I experience what seems like daily pain and walking can be a hassle most days. To put it plainly, it's like repairing an old car; you can't always get a new one so you make due. The disability has hampered my learning experiences by keeping me out of school for long periods of time. Often-times it leaves holes in my learning. And though it has affected me in ways that I may not yet understand, it has been my grit and determination, I believe, that has gotten me this far as a senior in high school.” Kyle maintains a **Grade Point Average** of 3.41.

P assion

“Ever since I was little I remember my mom and I would spend entire afternoons watching planes. This was back when you didn't need a plane ticket to get past security (pre 9-11) and it was then I knew what I wanted to do with my life. Sure other fancies caught my eye, journalism, sports television personality, but none really stuck like aviation, especially the airport. You know you're hooked when you love everything about it. And that's how it's been for me. I love the hustle and bustle of the people. But even more, it's the business and what happens behind the scenes that I really enjoy. I'm also fascinated by how time is money in the airport. It's the complete sensation of organized chaos. Some think that the airport is nothing more than a headache and for some, a personal invasion of space. But I

think that the whole thing is a complete orchestration of massive beast at play. It's a game where you can't please everyone but one thing can ruin everything. And I enjoy the challenge.”

A chievement

“It's been a long road but one that has its rewards. The personal awards have been appreciated, but I give eternal thanks to God and the blessings he has given and continues to give me. Of course, being a 2010 Jack and Jill Beau, an honor bestowed upon senior high school African American males throughout the Denver and surrounding areas, is especially appreciated.”



(Kyle Patterson pictured above at the Beautillion with Escort Lauren Arline).

“My high school, Denver School of the Arts, has also given me opportunities to grow and explore. I was a member of tri-M, a National Honor Society (NHS) for music majors. (I’m an NHS band geek). I've played the trumpet from coast to coast and at the greatest venues. I've gone to Chicago to play at Midwest, one the world’s best music festivals. Through those experiences, I have cemented my goals of managing a big-city airport. I am applying to colleges with special training and coursework in Airport management and administration. The opportunities I have seem limitless to create and be my own person in an otherwise bleak and colorless world. I will continue to look up at the sky!” [32 outstanding high school seniors are honored | Seen First](#)

Are you measuring your life by looking up at the wrong scale? Which **GPA** are you looking at to determine what you want from your life? I want Kyle's story to be a lesson for you that no matter the circumstances of your birth, you can find the **GRIT and PASSION to ACHIEVE** the goals you want for your life. Kyle personifies the character, ambition and indomitable spirit necessary to succeed. I sincerely appreciate his contribution to this article and for his inspiration. I have no doubt that he will fulfill his dream of running a major airport because he has the **GPA** for success: **GRIT, PASSION AND ACHIEVEMENT**.

What's your GPA?

When your organization needs a healthy infusion of inspiration, motivation or training in Leadership, Decision-Making, Communication, Ethics or Team-Building, contact **Please Rise**. I can provide a keynote, workshop, seminar or individual coaching tailored to meet your needs, raise your **GPA** and help you and your team **RISE**. Email Beau@PleaseRise.com.

Judge Beau Patterson

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“Do just once what others say you can't do, and you will never pay attention to their limitations again.” James R. Cook.

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