



# YOUR BEST LIFE

NOV  
2021

Honest. Excellent. Real.

## The Summer of '83

To me, context in life is important. I was blessed in my life to grow up on a farm, to appreciate the land, the weather and all the beautiful seasons God has allowed on this earth. I learned the value of hard, physical labor as a child from both of my parents. I wonder today if too many kids, including my own, have it too easy. Hard work helps us keep life in a good perspective, I believe.

I was in a conversation with a group of people recently who asked what I did for a living. I told them, and they went on and on about how difficult and stressful it must be to be a trial lawyer. In my mind, I went back to the Summer of '83. I was working in construction right beside my best friend in the world, Lance Simpkins. We were working as subcontractors at TVA, and we had to do some digging around pipes about 6 feet underground. As I was in that 8 foot ditch around and under the pipe, I was working a heavy full size jack hammer on concrete around the industrial pipes. It was right before quitting time. My boss, Lance's dad, Raymond Simpkins, said "Johnny, be very careful around that pipe. It is the main water pipe here." I was aching from working this thing at about a 45 degree angle and it was killing my back, but I had it under control.

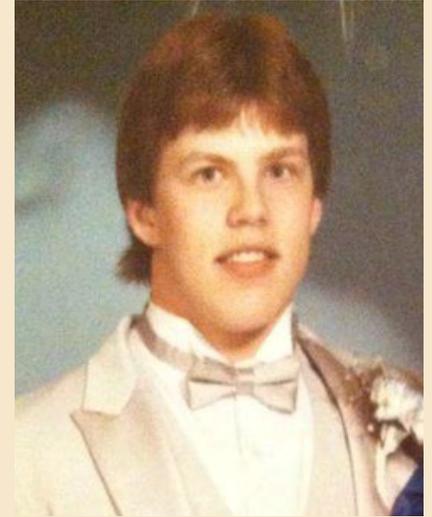
About 2 minutes later, I let the jackhammer slip, and it got stuck in the concrete. I began to work the hammer back out. I will never forget that little trickle of water that started coming out as I was pulling the jackhammer back. I kept working it out until ....WHOOSSSH. A big wave of water exploded with so much force it knocked me about 3 feet back and put me on my butt. I think that was the first time I had heard my best friend's dad cuss so many words in a row. And there was a crew of about 8 men alongside of him scowling and nodding in agreement.

Alarms are going off. Trucks with red flashing lights are approaching. Thanks to me, I have just shut down an entire power plant. All these men in hard hats are standing around with their hands on their hips. I am all alone as everyone in that circle of power turns and glares at me. The water is still spewing. Now it is raining, and I'm cold.

We work until 4 a.m. that night. I have never been so tired, cold and .. ashamed. I wanted to go home and cry. I was utterly humiliated. My boss, Raymond, later came up to me, put his arm around me and apologized. He said, "Johnny, things like this just happen. Nothing in work or in life goes like you plan it, you just have to deal with it and learn from it." He was 100% right. I needed his mercy.

Back to present day...So when I stay up multiple nights during trial and get about 4 hours sleep, don't get to see my family and I'm exhausted, I think about that day, and many others that were similar. It gives me a boost to work even harder. When people tell me how stressful and painful my job is, I just kind of chuckle inside my head. I remind myself constantly how lucky and blessed I am. I see guys in Subway getting lunch in their construction gear and I appreciate all the work they do. I'm certainly no better than they are. I wonder how many nights they have had like mine back in the Summer of '83. Memories like those stick with you for a lifetime.

And I thank God for the Summer of '83.



# Turkey Maze



## NOVEMBER'S RAVING FAN OF THE MONTH

“ I was in a accident last year and was terrified of what to do, I was in an accident before. I was referred over by someone who used this law firm and I’m so glad I did! Griffith Law is AMAZING, so beyond helpful, and they are truly very caring people. They help in the best ways! They are the best law firm! ”

**Kayle Bates, Columbia, TN**



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# Insurance Is There is EVERY Single Jury Case

What about “suing the insurance company”? Well, here is another fact you probably thought you knew but may be wrong. In a typical car wreck/ tractor-trailer truck wreck, you don’t sue the insurance company. Even though the whole case has insurance all over it in every facet of it, there is no mention to a jury that there is liability insurance. You cannot list the insurance company on your complaint as a defendant. The defendant gets a free lawyer with every dime of their high hourly fees paid for by the insurance company. Every penny in (almost) every single case is paid for 100% by the insurance company. And here you have the defendant sitting there in court with their insurance lawyer, and the defendant is looking all poor and pitiful and some on the jury may feel sorry for them, and some jurors may worry about hurting this lady’s pocketbook when it is all a (another) big lie.

Jurors in Tennessee are never told there is an insurance policy covering the defendant. Yet there it is, all over the courtroom and has stunk up the path to the courtroom, and jurors never know it. Oh... they suspect it, for sure. But there is a specific instruction that instructs them to “not consider” whether there is insurance covering the defendant, or not. But in every case I have ever tried (and I have tried a lot) insurance is there. IN EVERY SINGLE CASE.

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Think about going to trial from the plaintiff’s perspective. You can’t get blood out of a turnip. If a defendant does not have insurance, he is likely penniless and judgment proof. It takes a lot of money to get a case to trial. Depositions cost money to the plaintiff. Doctors’ depositions cost a lot more. It is simply not worth it to go to trial to get a judgment against a poor person who has no insurance. It’s no good for the plaintiff, and it is a waste of judicial resources most times. Yet, people on juries are swayed into the false thinking there is no insurance available many times, and the defense lawyers love it. Why? They want your sympathy. And they want you to use that sympathy to send the plaintiff out of that courtroom on their ear without a dime being paid to the plaintiff. Some of you may think that is funny. Wait until it happens to you.

So, now you know. If you are ever a juror in a civil trial involving money damages, there is almost a 100% chance there is insurance all over that courtroom, lots of it, and the defendant will never have to pay a penny for anything that is related to the case. Nothing. That’s part of the insurance policy. You get a lawyer paid for by the insurance company to represent you, and it costs you nothing. Insurance pays it all.

## CRANBERRY BRIE BITES

These yummy bites might look fancy, but don’t let that fool you—definitely let it fool your friends, though! A little fruit, some puff pastry and a pad of melty Brie cheese is all anyone could want out of an appetizer, right? If you’re new to puff pastry, there’s no need to be intimidated. This recipe requires no additional rolling—just thaw the frozen puff pastry and cut with a pizza cutter. These Brie bites are so quick and easy, you’ll have plenty of time to make other delicious holiday-ready appetizers to wow your guests with.

### Instructions

1. Preheat oven to 375°F. With a sharp knife or pizza cutter, cut the sheets into approximately 3 inch x 3 inch squares. Press each square into a muffin cavity.
2. Cube the cheese – about a 3/4 inch cube for each (you may have a little cheese left over). Place a cube of brie in the center of each puff pastry square. Top the brie with a small dollop (about 2 tsp) of cranberry sauce.
3. Bake about 10 minutes or until puff pastry corners are toasted lightly brown.
4. Enjoy!!

### Ingredients

- 1 package (17 1/4 oz) frozen puff pastry, thawed
- 1/2 lb Brie cheese
- 1 cup cranberry sauce (purchased or homemade)

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