**Childhood**

**Slide X**

**Caption**:

**Date**:

**Bass Player**

**Slide X**

**Caption**:

**Date**:

**US Marine**

**Slide X**

**Caption**:

**Date**:

**Web Developer**

**Slide X**

**Caption**:

**Date**:

**Photographer**

**Slide X**

**Caption**:

**Date**:

**Motorcycle Rider**

**Slide X**

**Caption**:

**Date**:

**Dog Lover**

**Slide X**

**Caption**:

**Date**:

**Slide 1**

**Date**: June 2, 1975

**Caption**: The Willis (Sears) Tower & Chicago Board of Trade, Chicago, IL

**Category**: Photography

**Key Points**:

* Born on the south side of Chicago, IL.
* These are a couple photos I took on a visit to the city as an adult
* My memories of the city from that time are limited mostly to my elementary school, the toy store and park.

**Slide 2**

**Date**: June 2, 1975

**Caption**: My Parents [Insert photo of parents]

**Category**: None

**Key Points:**

* My parents, Rob and Gail, met at the university of Dayton, OH, and got married right out of school.

**Slide 3**

**Date**: The 70s

**Caption**: My brother & sister [Insert photo of Kevin and Heather]

**Category**: None

**Key Points:**

* I’m the oldest and have a younger brother, Kevin and sister, Heather, each about 2 years apart

**Slide 4**

**Date**: The 70s

**Caption**: 3 Year Old Erik

**Category**: Motorcycles

**Key Points:**

* I think my love affair with motorcycles started when I was a child in Chicago, because my dad used to ride when he was a teenager and had this little Suzuki or something in our garage that I think was probably like 80cc

**Slide 5**

**Date**: Summer, 1983

**Caption**: Downtown Andover, MA [insert picture of Andover]

**Category**: None

**Key Points:**

* This was the year my dad’s job relocated us to a town called Andover in Massachusetts. I remember the timing of this because my mom took me to see the Return of the Jedi for my 8th birthday, then we moved about a month later.
* Andover was a very different vibe from Chicago. A bit more upscale than the neighborhood we had been in, not very diverse, and way more of a small-town feel, although I believe there are over 36,000 residents now. But it’s a beautiful town with a downtown that has many shops, restaurants, and bars.

**Slide 6**

**Date**: Summer, 1983

**Caption**: Philips Academy, Andover, MA [insert picture of PA chapel]

**Category**: Photography

**Key Points:**

* Andover is home to Philips Academy Andover, a well-known private high school with many notable alumni such as Bill Belichick, Dana Delaney, George H. W. Bush, and I believe Humphrey Bogart was expelled from the school
* My mom ended up working for the school for over 30 years until her retirement a couple years ago, first in the Dean of Studies office, but then in this chapel as an events coordinator. One year I saw Yo-Yo Ma perform a free concert there because I think his daughter went to the school.

**Slide 7**

**Date**: The 80s

**Caption**: Me in the 80s [insert picture of me with long hair]

**Category**: None

**Key Points:**

* I don’t think there’s much to speak of about my life in the 80s. I was a quiet kid with a small social circle – just a few close friends. I liked hair bands and metal, and I studied Karate, largely because I had seen the Karate Kid.

**Slide 8**

**Date**: 1989-1993 - High School

**Caption**: Me in High School [insert picture of me in HS playing bass]

**Category**: Bass

**Key Points:**

* I went to Andover High School, not Philips Academy. A couple years earlier I had started learning guitar, but then when I was 15, I had a few friends who wanted to start a band and we all sort of played guitar.
* We had one friend who played bass, but he was like into Frank Zappa and Iron Maiden and Rush and was way too good for us, so he let me try out his bass and after noodling with it for a bit I was hooked. I convinced my parents to buy me some cheap Fender knock off… I can’t even remember what the brand was, and that kicked off my musical journey that would pretty much stay with me in various amounts for my entire life.
* **Fun fact #1**: my senior year of high school I played in the first iteration of a metal band called Converge who are now pretty big in that scene

**Slide 8**

**Date**: 1993-1997 - USMC

**Caption**: Marine Corp Recruiting Poster from the 80s [insert pictures of poster]

**Category**: Veteran

**Key Points:**

* In High School I kind of felt like I was lacking direction and guidance and didn’t know how to make a career of being a “rock star”, and really didn’t know what I would study in school, but I had this poster that I had been given by a Marine Corps recruiter when I was in I think 8th grade, and I kept that poster on my wall for years. It was a Marine in camouflage paint with a rope coiled around him and holding an M-16, so I said to myself, that’s what I’m going to do. I’ll be a bad ass :D

**Slide 9**

**Date**: 1993-1997 - USMC

**Caption**: Some moments from my time in the Marine Corps [insert pictures of me in the Marines]

**Category**: Veteran

**Key Points:**

* One day at the beginning of my Senior year a recruiter was at the high school. I was still 17, a quiet, introverted, skinny, 145 lb kid who never played sports and had never run more than a mile in my life, but I approached that recruiter and said, “what do I have to do to join” and he replied “get in my car” … so I let him take me down to the recruiting station and after listening to the pitch I called my parents and was like, heyyyy I need you to sign something.
* It wasn’t really as simple as that but after some discussions I think they agreed that they were proud of the decision I was making, so I enlisted to be an infantry Marine (because why would I join the Marine Corps to learn an actual skill??) and on September 10, 1993 after one last summer break I went to Parris Island, SC. I graduated in December and a couple weeks later went to the Infantry School at Camp Lejeune, NC, where it was decided I’d be an 0341 mortarman, so that’s what I trained to be.
* I had chosen as part of my contract to be on the West Coast, thinking I’d be at Camp Pendleton near the water, but they ended up sending me to this place I had never heard of in the middle of the Mojave Desert called 29 Palms. Better than Guantanamo Bay I guess
* I was stationed there for the remainder of my contract, but I went to Okinawa twice for 6 months at a time (so partially realized that childhood dream, haha) and spent time on the mainland at a base near Mt. Fuji, visited Tokyo, got to tour and aircraft carrier in the naval port as Yokosuka.
* **Fun Fact #2**: I was in Tokyo in March of ’95 when, if I’m remembering correctly, a cult released sarin nerve gas into the subway system that killed about a dozen people and injured several thousand.
* The second time I was in Japan some members of my platoon flew to Thailand to spend a month on an annual exercise training with the Royal Thai Marines, so I spent time in the jungle near the Cambodian border and got to spend a weekend in Bangkok
* I was fortunate that I was never in any combat, but I got to do a lot of fun training, drive hummers, throw grenades, see a B-52 drop full payloads of 500 lb bombs in the desert, see napalm dropped, train with tanks, fly on helicopters with my feet dangling out over the ocean, almost got hit by a chunk of shrapnel while training with Airforce pilots dropping bombs, and got into a lot of trouble in SoCal and Tijuana.
* Also during that time I married my high school girlfriend, but we had grown apart over those years and split up after about 4 years.
* In 1997 I applied for a slightly early release so I could start college right after being discharged, so I got out about a month early and my dad flew out to meet me in Palm Springs and we drove my car across the country to get home.
* **Fun Fact #3**: I got pulled over for speeding in Connecticut and the state trooper let me go because I told him I just got out of the Marines and hadn’t seen my wife for 7 months

**Slide 10**

**Date**: August 1997

**Caption**: [pictures of all my nieces and nephews]

**Category**: None

**Key Points:**

* A couple months before I got out of the Marines I became an uncle for the first time when my sister had her oldest son, Tyler. Since then I’ve become an uncle 9 more times between my brother, sister, and my wife’s siblings, and they range in age from about 8 months to 27 years old

**Slide 11**

**Date**: 1997-2003

**Caption**: [pictures from college]

**Category**: None

**Key Points:**

* So I started school at the university of New Hampshire in a major called “outdoor education” which I chose because it had cool skills classes like rock climbing, summer backpacking, and orienteering.
* **Fun Fact #4**: This major required that we take a basic EMT course, but I took it a step further and got certified and ended up riding on a volunteer ambulance corps at the school for a couple of months.
* While I was at UNH I was looking to get back to bass playing, and I met an amazing guitar player named Bob while I was performing with a band I had joined. He subsequently stole me from that band and we started a project with two other musicians that eventually became called The Screen. My biggest regret in life is probably leaving those guys. They were wonderful people, incredible musicians, and my best friends.
* After a few semesters I realized I really didn’t know where I was going with this and thought it would be smart to study my first love so I took a semester off to do some self study and applied to a music program at the University of Massachusetts, Lowell, with a focus on sound recording technology, which I thought was smarter than a normal performance degree. So don’t tell Jose and Will but yes, I have a bachelor of Music and never studied any kind of computer science :D
* During all my time at college I had a lot of random jobs: ball boy for the football team, maintenance guy at the apartment complex where I lived, sales guy at a Radio Shack, paid internship in the Civil Engineering department of Andover, where I helped with surveying streets for a new mapping software, front desk guy at a gym, house painter, Starbucks barista, “counselor” at a boarding school in New Hampshire for behaviorally challenged teenagers

**Slide 12**

**Date**: Halloween 1998

**Caption**: Me, my Dad, and my Nana, the last time I saw her [picture of Nana]

**Category**: None

**Key Points:**

* Say something about Nana dying

**Slide 13**

**Date**: 2003

**Caption**: picture of thescreen.com?

**Category**: Web

**Key Points:**

* After finally graduating college (took me 5 years total because of having to make up credits when changing schools and majors), I realized that I didn’t have a great talent or passion for music engineering, but at some point The Screen decided we needed a website, so I took up trying to figure out how to build one. I had my first computer which I didn’t get until I was like 25. It was a hand-me-down Dell laptop I got from my dad, and I had MS Frontpage. The first site I built was ridiculously bad, but I found that I really enjoyed the process and learning about HTML so I thought, hmmmmm, maybe this is something I could actually make money at.

**Slide 14**

**Date**: 2005-2006

**Caption**: picture of silver oven

**Category**: Web

**Key Points:**

* I ended up leaving my job at the boarding school, moved out of the apartment I was in in NH, and stayed with my dad and his wife for a year while I took a night course working towards a certificate that encompassed design/Adobe products, photography, HTML, CSS, and a little Flash.
* After graduating from that course, I happened to hear from an acquaintance in the music community about a small company called Silver Oven in which his brother was one of two partners. They worked out of an old mill building in Portsmouth, NH, had 2 developers, 3 designers, one IT guy, and two sort of secretaries, and their focus was marketing sites for private equity firms.
* I applied for what I was hoping might be a web design position initially, but they ended up taking a huuuuge chance on me and hired me as a front end developer for like 30k. I had no idea what I was doing, but I spent close to 6 years at that job and learned a ton.
* I worked on static marketing sites for companies like Bain Capital, Ares Capital, Conversus,

**Slide 15**

**Date**: 2008-ish

**Caption**: some of my photos

**Category**: Web

**Key Points:**

* In addition to design and dev, I found that I really enjoyed the photography part of the certificate course I took, so I eventually bought a cheap Nikon DSLR and started messing with nature and architecture shots, and taking candid photos of people
* One night I was sitting at the bar in a local restaurant in Andover (at this point my brother and I had an apartment together in town and I was commuting up to Portsmouth) and I saw a flyer talking about fashion shows with local shops that the owner (who I was friendly with from when we were kids) was hosting in the lounge. I joked that I should be her photographer for them, thinking it would be fun to shoot models in that setting, and she said, “do you want to? I need a photographer”. Thinking back to that random small interaction, it really set off a series of events that eventually lead to some pretty big turning points in my life. I knew nothing about shooting in a dark lounge with flash, or how to photograph models, so I started reading up and ended up doing those shows for a couple years I think. Along the way I saw a lot of the same models and one of them suggested I should get on Model Mayhem and start doing portraits, something else I had never done. So then I started messing with studio lighting and photographing people in more of a studio setting that I set up in my apartment. I had no designs on being a pro photographer. I just liked the people I met, it got me out of my shell, and I especially enjoyed the photoshop editing process… soooo then…

**Slide 16**

**Date**: 2010-2011

**Caption**: ??

**Category**: Web

**Key Points:**

* I met this one model on a location shoot in Boston, and she ends up contacting me to do some portraits. We hit it off and started dating. Thing is, she was really trying to be a professional model and actress, and wanted to be in LA. She had a friend out here who worked for a manager, and that person ended up offering her an opportunity, but she had to move out here before pilot season. We had been together for like 6 or 8 months when she asked me to move with her. I was like sure! Adventure! My family was pretty shocked, and it was a fast decision, but Silver Oven had west coast clients so they said I could keep my job and work remotely because they had a PM out here and were thinking of trying to maybe even open an LA office
* So with the help of her friend, we secured an apartment in North Hollywood and in February 2011 packed up and drove cross country without ever having seen where we’d be living in person.
* Unfortunately (if not predictably) things went sour with that relationship pretty quickly and after about 7 months I moved out and found a place in West Hollywood with a friend of the PM who was in a similar situation.
* Around this time I also decided to leave Silver Oven for various reasons and worked freelance for a few months, until photography lead me to another somewhat life changing moment
* One of the guys I worked with at Silver Oven had met and was friendly with Rae Dawn Chong because she for some reason spent time in Portsmouth. Now she was back in Hollywood and he connected me with her because she needed someone to do some headshots. While I was photographing her, we were chatting about work and she told me about a friend of hers who had some ownership in a company in Hollywood called Trailer Park. Their main business was cutting movie trailers and developing key art like for billboards, but they had a small mobile app/web department, and they were in contract with Apple to do a bunch of interactive iBooks so I applied and accepted a position in that department and eventually moved to their mobile web department where I worked on mobile sites for E-Online and Oscars.org (when mobile websites were still a separate thing)

2013

* This was another turning point year for me because it was the year I learned to ride motorcycles and got my license. I had always wanted to ride since I was about 8 years old and my neighbors had dirt bikes, and used to dream about owning a Kawasaki Ninja, but never figured out how to get started. I had a good friend (who I had also met through photography back in NH) who moved out to LA a couple months before I did for school, and she also wanted to learn so we took the M1 class together, got our licenses together, bought bikes and practiced together. We continue to be riding buddies even though she lives in Long Beach now, and she became involved in hosting the DGR

2014-2020

* Things were going downhill for the dev departments at Trailer Park pretty quickly. People were getting laid off left and right and it just wasn’t feeling stable any more. I had been contacted by a recruiter at Guitar Center previously and had kind of dismissed it even though I was interested because I lived in West Hollywood and their office is in Thousand Oaks. But with the way things were going it sounded more appealing now, and honestly I think because I had a bike now I was much more willing to commute. I applied and got that job where I was initially focused on their mobile website, which was in jquery mobile at the time, but later ended up working on their native mobile app which was built in a framework called Xamarin, in which you coded in C# but it compiled down to native code for both iOS and Android
* It was at GC where I had the pleasure of meeting and working with Patrick, Kevin, and Manik ☺
* Taking this job turned out to be a great move for me. My skillset really developed a lot, but also I got my first experience working in e-comm, and really my first taste of working for a bigger corporation, and after a couple of years I ended up managing the front end dev team. I was very different than my previous work environments.
* During this time I bought my home, became a cat and dog dad, and met my wife, Katie, who I’ve been with for 7 years now.

June 23, 2018

* I got married – something I wasn’t sure I would do again. But when I was introduced to Katie by a friend who was staying in my house, we hit it off immediately. She’s the kindest, most thoughtful, gentle, loving talented and hardworking woman I’ve ever known. She was born and raised in Toronto, her dad Canadian and her mother Belgian, and she worked incredibly hard to move to LA and establish herself in Hollywood as a sound effects editor. She’s received several awards for her work including two Emmys for being on the sound team for Stranger Things seasons 3-4.

August 2020-Present

* In the summer of 2020 I fell victim to a large round of layoffs as a result of covid after almost 6 years at Guitar Center, but I’ve said many times that this was one of the best things that happened to me because I really wasn’t happy there. I didn’t like being a manager, I was doing very little actual coding, and the Java/JSTL stack we were using was not fun to work with.
* Patrick had come over here to HFT a month or so earlier, and I knew Kevin as well as one of the recruiters from GC, so I was very happy to get the opportunity to apply early and eventually come on board here. I have been so much happier with the culture, the role, and the people here at HFT and love being a part of this company.

Motorcycle Rider

* [insert miscellaneous moto pics]

Dog Lover

* [insert miscellaneous dog pics]