



Blue Bars

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My Corvette Story

In the summer of 1974, after graduating from High School in Illinois, I went west to California seeking my future. I moved in with my sister in L.A., who just happened to have a "69" Corvette convertible. I would take her to work, and drive around all day. That is when I got hooked on Corvettes. After a few weeks a friend came out to visit, and we took the Vette up to San Francisco, then back to L.A. on the Pacific Coast Highway. That was the drive of a lifetime. A bucket list kind of drive!

Fast forward back to Peoria, Illinois. After not getting the position, I wanted in California, I moved back home, got a different job, fell in love and started my future. Knowing I couldn't afford the insurance on a Corvette until I turned 25, I waited.



After three years of marriage and our first son on the way, I turned 25 on December 2, 1980 and on December 15, I bought a 1979 Frost Blue Corvette coupe with white leather interior and tinted glass T-tops. Knowing you can't buy such a big-ticket item for yourself that close to Christmas, I parked it in a friend's garage, added a big red ribbon and bow with a sign saying, "Merry Christmas Mary" (my wife).

About four years later along comes son number two. With a pick-up truck and the Corvette, I knew we would have to sell the Vette to get a family car. As the years passed, along comes son number three, then our baby girl. Over the course of 32 years, everyone in our extended family knew that the day would come that once the last child was out of college, I would get another Corvette.

On October 9, 2016 I got a call from a nephew saying I needed to be home to sign for a FedEx package. The doorbell rang and there was a truck with a black enclosed trailer. As he dropped the back gate it revealed a brand new 2016 Torch Red, Z51 Corvette Coupe. My nephew



then called to tell me it was his "Thank You" gift to me for donating a kidney to him 10 years earlier. OMG, I was blown away and so very grateful. My nephew is the one on the right in the picture.

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