

# Carlton Cards Looks at Some Memorable TV Dads



**Mississauga, Ontario (June 2016)** - Over the years, just as the roles of fathers have evolved in the family dynamic, so have the ways they have been portrayed on television. No matter the decade or time slot, there are some essential qualities in these television fathers that we can see (or would like to see) in ourselves. Which television dad personality suits you best?

**Tough as Nails Dad – John Walton Sr. (The Waltons):** John Walton Sr. is the definition of a hardworking and dedicated dad who runs both a small sawmill on his property to provide for his large family that includes seven children. He is a good natured man who is ready to stand up for what he believes in. John Sr. also wants his children to succeed and fulfill their dreams and when his oldest son John Jr. shares that he dreams to be a writer his dad is fully supportive. It is not a surprise to note that John Sr. ends up on the top of the on many of the lists for Greatest TV Dads

**Salt of the Earth Dad - Martin Crane (Frasier):** In the very popular television show, Frasier that ran from 1993 to 2004, viewers enjoyed watching the dynamics and chemistry between dad, Martin Crane, and his two grown up sons. Martin is a simple guy, down to earth and enjoys sitting in his well-worn chair with his faithful dog, Eddie, watching TV. His two sons, Frasier and Miles are highly educated, highly opinionated and enjoy the finer things in life. The banter between Martin and his sons created great comedy moments but the love they shared was never in question. For Father's Day, they probably would give "cheers" to each other: Martin with a Ballantine Beer and his sons with a fine sherry.

**Wait Until Your Mother Comes Home Dad – Ray Barone (Everyone Loves Raymond):** As the title, Everyone Loves Raymond suggests, the show centres on Ray Barone, husband to Debra and dad of three children. In this household you would never hear "Wait until your father gets home" as Ray prefers most of the parenting left to his wife. Ray has been raised as a momma's boy and has a very complicated relationship with his dad so it is not surprising he lacks the skills and confidence in dealing with his own kids. There is never any doubt that Ray sees his family is number one in his life and is thankful to have Debra as such a strong partner to help him navigate through parenthood.

**Goofy But Loveable Dad – Phil Dunphy (Modern Family):** Phil is always ready to help and is eager to please. He is sensitive, kind and his awkwardness is especially endearing. Whether he is interacting with his wife, Claire or his three kids, he wants to communicate on their level and is always game to try new things, even if it means falling on his face or looking vulnerable. He always means well, tries his hardest and no matter what, he will always be there for his kids and be their biggest cheerleader. We are

guessing Phil's cheer team activities through high school and college helped him prepare for fatherhood.

Life isn't like episodic television. We don't have script writers to help with solutions for our day to day concerns or to feed us funny quips as comebacks but we can learn something from TV dads. Patience, acceptance and supporting our kids plus finding the humour and lighter side in life are key to being a great dad.

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**Carlton Cards Ltd.** 1820 Matheson Blvd., Mississauga, ON L4W 0B3

For more information contact: Eleanor Kobayashi / Communications Specialist Phone: 1-800-663-CARD Email: [Pressroom@carltoncards.ca](mailto:Pressroom@carltoncards.ca)