



## THE BEST GIFT I EVER GOT

Over the years I've written many manuals, memos, and commentaries (MY VIEWS). I've considered myself a pretty good writer. But for quite a while I've wanted to be more than a writer. I've wanted to be an author... someone who writes books. This desire was fueled by friends and family members who have frequently asked: "*Why don't you write a book?*"

Then on my 75th Birthday, it happened! Within seconds, I went from being a writer to being an author. In the middle of a zoom birthday party organized by my TIP colleagues, my wife and a TIP staffer carried a beautiful leather-bound book into my office. The book was titled, **TIP: My View Through The Years**. It is a collection of all the MY VIEWS I've written. A book at last!

For the rest of my birthday, I entertained fantasies about how being an author would change my life. I would travel the country (no, the world!) promoting my book on morning TV shows; sign books at TIP fundraisers; enhance my reputation by introducing myself as an author whenever possible; read book passages at local bookstores; and have a perfect excuse to avoid Honey Do projects "*Sorry, honey, I'm in the middle of writing my next book.*"

But it only took 24 hours for me to return to reality. I realized there would be no readings, no tours, no TV appearances. No, my book wouldn't be on every nightstand in the country. No, most people wouldn't read my book from cover to cover.

But even as my fantasies about being an author faded, one part of my birthday experience remained. I received **THE BEST GIFT I EVER GOT**. A book, of all things.

I've tried to understand why this book is the best gift I ever got. Here's why...

- **IT WAS HARD WORK:** As I learned the story of my book's production, I became aware of the hard work required to take the individual documents I'd written and turn them into a book. That's probably why I never did it. But a small group of TIP staff and my wife (I will call them the Book Team) spent 3 months working on what is usually a 6-month project. A member of the

book team told me, *"It was like building a house. Lots and lots of details"*. Nobody on the book team had any experience producing a book. But in typical TIP fashion, they figured it out.

- **IT'S BEAUTIFUL.** I have seen many self-published books over the years. Most of them look, well... self-published. Not mine! Mine is a beautiful 500-page leather bound book. Top quality paper. Sturdy! It was made to last. The book team had obviously decided *"We are going to do this right!"*
- **IT SOLVED A PROBLEM FOR ME:** I've had a nagging problem for some time... how to put my all MY VIEWS together into a book. But I never seemed to get to it. I eventually came to accept that becoming an author with a book would remain unfinished business, a professional regret... until **TIP: My View Through The Years** came along.
- **IT WAS A LABOR OF LOVE:** As I thanked members of the book team, I heard over and over *"Wayne, it was a labor of love."* One book team member said, *"If we didn't love you, we wouldn't have done it."* I have never received a gift given with so much love.

I have never been good at answering "best" questions like...*"What was the best vacation you ever had?"* ... *"What was the best place you have lived?"* ... *"What's is the best movie you've seen lately?"*

But I do know the answer to *"What is the best gift you ever got?"*... a book called **TIP: My View Through The Years**.

Thank you to the book team for your labor of love; thanks to the TIP National Board of Directors and the CEO for supporting this project; thanks to those who contributed your expressions of appreciation which are included in the book; and thanks to everyone in the TIP community who gave me the inspiration to write about you and our great organization.

**Wayne Fortin, Founder**  
Trauma Intervention Programs Inc  
760-809-8471  
Fortin.Wayne@gmail.com

To read other MY VIEWS go to [www.tipnational.org/from-the-founder](http://www.tipnational.org/from-the-founder)