

# The Cunningham Report

an information source for the trade and transportation community

Dear Reader:

So a bunch of the guys at the Pacific Merchant Shipping Association are sitting around at their office in San Francisco, talking about Father's Day and cancer, which is a weird mix of topics, but if you have met these guys that shouldn't surprise you. We have been on a martini run with these guys, and there's no way of knowing where the conversation is going to go with them.

The cancer part of the conversation starts as it does for all of us. Cancer for folks in modern-day America is like the wolf stalking us from the tree line, the predator who chooses his victim, then attacks without mercy. We all know the victims – the ones who survived and the ones who did not. PMSA President John McLaurin knows the horror. His wife Lisa is a breast cancer survivor and if you were at the PMSA annual meeting last month you heard him talk about her bravery and strength. We ourselves have a dear friend fighting the battle even now – again with courage and resolve.

So what does this have to do with Father's Day? The PMSA guys were saying wouldn't it be nice if on Father's Day, instead of a buying a tie, people would take the money and spend it fighting cancer. There are many organizations that turn money into research. Folks could just pick one and donate.

Dad's not going to mind. He's got plenty of ties already. If you buy him another tie, he's got to pretend that he's excited about it, then he actually has to wear it so he doesn't hurt anybody's feelings. He'd much rather have a cure for cancer, than another tie. To make it easier, the PMSA guys registered a website – [www.fathersdayfund.org](http://www.fathersdayfund.org) – where people can find a place to donate the money that they were going to spend on dad's tie. The only connection to the PMSA is that the folks who set it up happen to work there. It's an off-the-clock project, done by a handful of guys who have three things in common.

They don't like cancer, they hate wearing ties, and they love martinis.

Until Next Time,  
George Cunningham

