

March 4, 2023

Nick Rodionoff lived on a higher plane, with a higher, spiritual view and participation in God's creation.

Since we live by the Spirit, let us walk in step with the Spirit.

Galatians 5:25

Nick lived and walked at a higher level – a spiritual level. He walked with God. There are two signs of this walk:

- 1) First , he impacted the **very lives** of swimmers, divers, and coaches as a mentor, a guide. Not just through skill acquisition, training, achieving records, gaining wins and sustaining losses, but in touching individual LIVES. Nick touched their very lives, their sense of themselves and God's universe. He lived with a larger view of athletics than record books and championships. He mentored and coached to help his athletes become better human beings.

Yes , his protégés (swimmers, divers, and coaches) won awards. they won races, contests, events ... but he loved them, counseled them, and showed them by example **how to be** a competitor, how to face adversity, and how to develop and sustain a work ethic. If there is any ethic that comes through from his influence, it is the hard work, dedication, devotion that he himself demonstrated. He knew his own calling as an athlete

and as a coach. He was a mentor, in the best sense of the word, by giving counsel, advice, support, & encouragement.

2) The second sign that he is a man who lives on a **higher, spiritual plane** is seen in the many things in which he excelled: in occidental college football, diving, track and field, in coaching hundreds of athletes AND as an accomplished artist using photography as his medium. He was renaissance rodionoff! uomo universale.

He was an artist who understood that sport is an art form and that a camera, used skillfully, captures beauty in the precise moment. He saw and photographed the beauty of Malibu. Most importantly, Nick understood time in two forms: Chronos and Kairos. The former refers to human time – spanning hours, days, and years. It is about duration and span. Kairos refers to eternally present and sacred time where chronological time is suspended in an instant, placing us in a kind of suspended animation zone absorbing all of our attention, placing human time on hold, on a shelf.

His photographs possess Kairos – His camera captures eternity in a moment. Nick has that gift. He experiences time in both forms, and surely right NOW he is in Kairos, time spent eternally with and in the moment of God's spirit. Have you

seen his work? I hope so. We have four of his photographs hanging in our home. As I view these works, I am transported to the beach, to the beautiful Pacific. The last gift he gave us was his green flash photo taken at Corral Beach at sunset. It was a singular moment as the sun slipped below the horizon into pure green eternal light. Nick saw that moment and gave it to us, to each of us. Timeless Time. Verdant Beauty.

Nick loved nature and the beauty that he glimpsed with his camera - especially in the ocean – water, waves, and foam; the beach; the sky; the wildlife – birds, dolphins, seals and the sky – sunrises and sunsets. Thank you Nick for your eye, your sense of balance, color, and scene. Your gift blesses us.

We come today to celebrate both Chronos and Kairos forms of time spent with Nick, the privilege of sharing years of his life with each of us, and time lived through his artistic glimpse into the world of God's spirit. He was a student of coaching, a student of humanity, and a student of nature and these three dimensions gave him both electric and magnetic qualities that we all saw and felt. We are eternally grateful for Nick and we thank God for creating him. His life blessed ours. He will always be in our hearts.

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