

MOTHER'S DAY

MOTHER'S DAY IS A DAY that I reflect on the blessings of Motherhood. The first moment you hold your child, the lessons you learn being a Mom, and the strength you discover along the way. I treasure the moments when our children discover their own gifts and talents and they finally realize that Mom was right. Motherhood is a role that I deeply treasure; and I'm very grateful that God so graciously blessed David and I with four children: Stefan, Blake, Cecilee and Christian.

By far my favorite memories with our children are the holidays, and family vacations. Occasions when we are all together, and the nest is full. As our children grow into adulthood those moments become rare with different colleges and work schedules – and now marriages. You learn to make the most of those precious FAM moments,



Tonya Cook with her granddaughter Mackelyn Noelle Hinson

which include FAM dinner – who is cooking? – and, of course, one of our favorite things to do as a Family is game night. I truly love watching and listening to our children laugh, give each other a hard time, and the sweetest moments are observing them encourage and support one other.

As our FAM continues to grow, we now have one daughter-in-law, Amanda, two sons-in-law, Luke and Colton, and our newest and by far most adorable addition is our sweet precious granddaughter Mackelyn Noelle Hinson. Which makes Mother's day even more special; with a new generation, watching my sweet granddaughter look with adoring eyes at her mother, my daughter Blake. The cycle of life continues, creating new memories to cherish on Mother's Day.

– Tonya Cook, wife of Mansfield Mayor David Cook



The Short family (which is about to add one more)

WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL ABOUT BEING A MOM?

WHETHER YOU HAVE 1 kiddo or 10, motherhood is not for the faint of heart. How can the most difficult task on the planet be the most rewarding? K-I-D-S!

I know Mother's Day is all about moms, but we wouldn't be moms without our kids. My husband and I raised seven of them. They are all adults now (we survived). They are AMAZING. It has been my honor to be their mother.

My mom has always said, "There is no greater calling on earth than being a mom." I must agree. If you think about it, we are creating and nurturing future doctors, nurses, teachers, lawyers, builders, leaders and more.

WHAT MOTHER'S DAY MEANS TO ME ...

MOTHERHOOD IS A TEAM SPORT

AS A YOUNG ARMY OFFICER who deployed to Iraq shortly after 9/11, much of what I first learned about “motherhood” grew from the soldiers and families I served with – long before I ever had children.

After taking command of a company in Baghdad, I immediately went to work writing letters to the parents and families of my soldiers. I knew that I would want my own parents to receive the same letter assuring them that there was an Army community (albeit it thousands of miles away) committed to caring for and protecting their son or daughter and to bringing them home safely.

Now with three daughters of my own, I still hold on to the sense that our communities – schools, churches, neighborhoods, friends – share in the awesome responsibility of caring for our children. Motherhood is working alongside my husband to grow our girls into strong women. But motherhood is also high-fives and “I hear you had a great soccer game!” for someone else’s kid when I am able to make it to a school field trip; and it’s receiving



picture texts of my kid having a great day from another parent when I’m not there.

– **Jeannie Deakayne, Director,**
TCU Neeley Executive Education,
Texas Christian University

With that realization comes great responsibility. Being mom to seven was a lot of work and a lot of fun! There is no way I could have done it without knowing that God was helping me and directing me. We kept God at the center of our family, and I am very happy to say that the kids are still very close to each other, and five of them live within a half mile radius to us.

In June we are expecting the birth of our ninth grand-baby. His name will be Jameson, and he will break the tie between the four grandsons and four granddaughters we currently have. We could not be happier; happy that we raised seven, happy they are healthy and happy adults, happy that they found a loving spouse and have their own families. And **REALLY HAPPY** they are all close by!

– **Julie Short, Mansfield City Councilperson**

MOMMIE, DEAREST ...
SWEETEST MOM EVER!
THANKS, MOM, FOR EVERYTHING
TO A SPECIAL MOTHER ...
MOMMIE!!!
LUV YA, MOM!
YES, MOMMIE