

A FATHER'S PRIDE, A FAMILY'S JOY

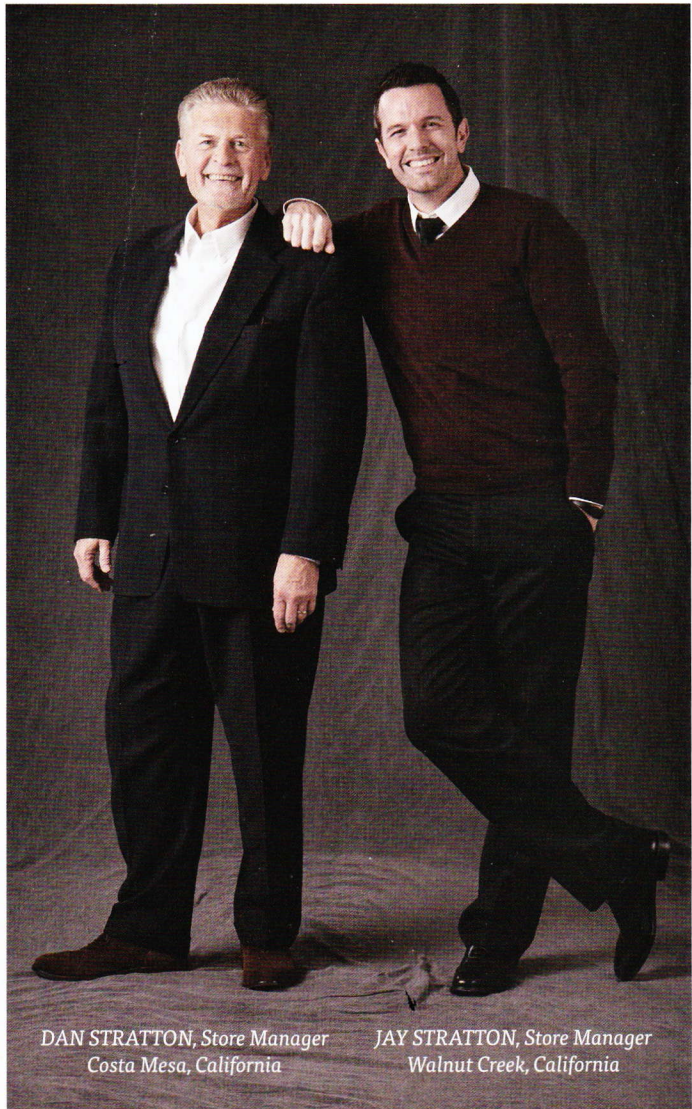
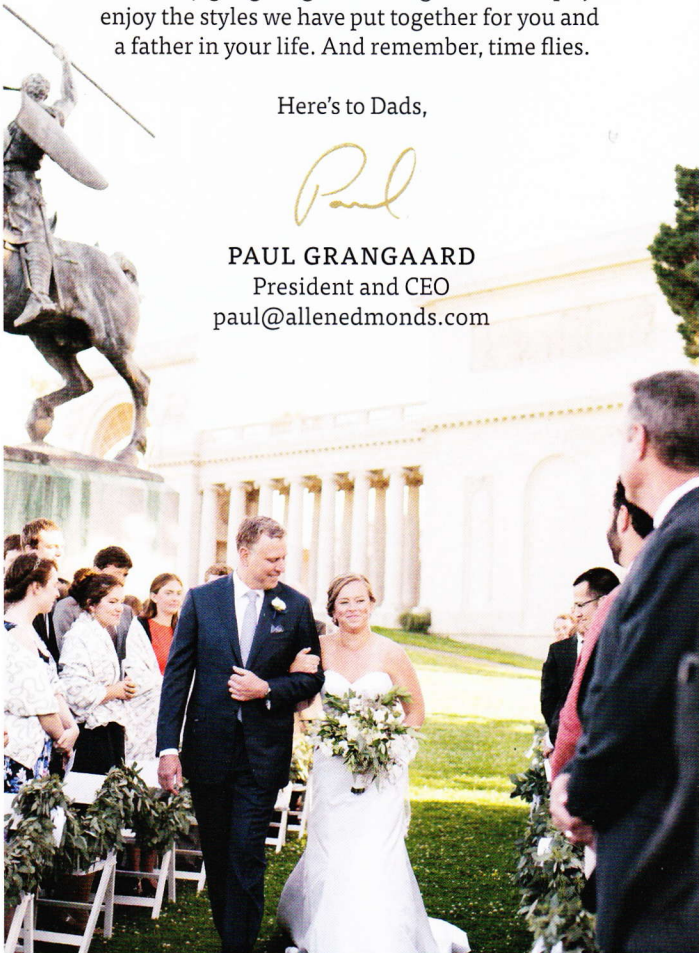
As Father's Day approaches, I of course have been thinking about my own time as a dad. This past summer my daughter married a great guy she had met a few years earlier in college. As any parent knows, it's bittersweet when you admit that your work is done and (hopefully) you've achieved what you sought all along — an independent adult who's out in the world and building a new family. While I definitely had my Steve Martin "Father of the Bride" meltdown in advance of walking Elise down the aisle, when her big day came she looked so excited that my eyes stayed dry and instead I was happily focused — as she very clearly was — on their bright future together.

Father's Day is a great time to reflect on the importance of family in other meanings, too. I realize that I'm also fortunate to be a part of the Allen Edmonds family. And to me that's no baby boomer cliché. I am very proud to note that 40% of our Wisconsin factory workers have family members working with them at the company. We also have a father-son team managing two of our stores in California and each is doing a great job (the apple and the tree thing). We work hard, and like the family we are, we rise and fall together. Once again this year we're offering the fruits of our collective efforts for Father's Day gift giving at amazing values. I hope you enjoy the styles we have put together for you and a father in your life. And remember, time flies.

Here's to Dads,



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