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Kyle Hawley

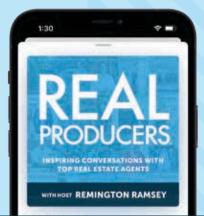


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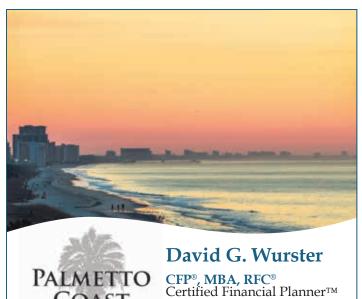


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n the bustling world of real estate, there are stories that transcend the transactions. Rhonda Brooks, a REALTOR® with Coldwell Banker Sea Coast Advantage, embodies the essence of these tales. With only three and a half years under her belt in the industry, Rhonda's journey is as inspiring as the homes she helps people find.

Born and raised just north of Winston Salem, North Carolina, Rhonda's path to real estate was not a straight line. Graduating from the University of NC at Greensboro with a degree in Marketing and Textiles, Rhonda found her passion for people and retail during her time with Limited Brands. But it was her 15-year tenure with Target, where she served as a store director, that truly honed her leadership skills.

"In 2019, my husband and I decided to make a change," Rhonda shares. "We moved to Murrells Inlet, seeking a healthier lifestyle and more time with our boys. I had been coming to Myrtle Beach since I was a little girl, so I knew we would love it here. Kim Davis sold us our house!", she says with a smile. Leaving behind the retail world, Rhonda found herself drawn to the allure of real estate. "I wanted to help people make the possibility of beach life a reality," she reflects. "It meant so much to me personally."

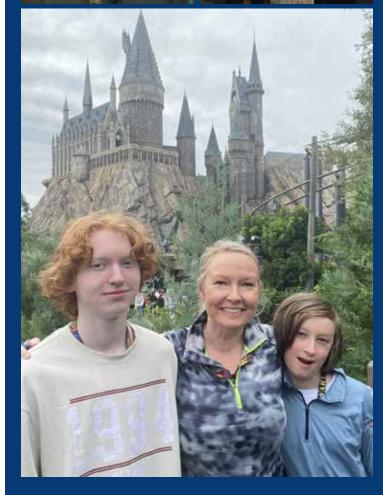
Despite challenges and doubts, Rhonda's determination never wavered. "I've always felt underestimated, even by myself," she admits. "But I've learned to put my head down and work hard to make things happen." One of her favorite quotes is, "Beauty begins the moment you decide to be yourself." - Coco Chanel

Starting her career amidst the pandemic in the fall of 2020, Rhonda embraced the uncertainties with grace and resilience. "Every transaction is unique and has its own rewards and challenges," she shares, echoing her mantra to never give up.

Now, as a top producer, Rhonda finds fulfillment in helping clients fulfill their dreams of coastal living. "The most rewarding part is hearing back from clients about how much they



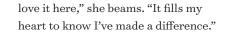






COLDWELL B





Success, for Rhonda, goes beyond financial achievements. "It's about doing what you love, supporting your family, and standing up for what you believe in," she emphasizes.

Outside of real estate, Rhonda cherishes time with her family—husband Todd, sons Hayden and Collin, and their beloved golden retrievers (who ironically do not like water!). From Disney adventures to trips to Flea Markets and Huntington State Park, to supporting her boys in musical theater, family is at the core of Rhonda's life.

But her commitment extends beyond her household. Rhonda is deeply involved in the community, lending her support to organizations like Habitat for Humanity and participating in charitable events like the Masquerade Gala.

"I believe everyone should have the opportunity of homeownership," Rhonda asserts. "That's why I'm passionate about giving back."

As Rhonda looks towards the future, she hopes to leave a lasting legacy of empowerment and mentorship. "I want to start my own team to help new agents learn and grow in their business," she reveals.

With her unwavering dedication to helping others and her contagious passion for real estate, Rhonda Brooks is more than just a realtor—she's a beacon of hope and inspiration in an ever-evolving industry. And as she continues to make waves along the Grand Strand, her impact will be felt far beyond the shores.





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Chris Speckman is the owner of the club that serves the area, including North Myrtle Beach, two locations in Murrells Inlet, South Carolina, and Southport, North Carolina.

He smiles as he describes his work, which also happens to be his passion.

"We are really like a country club on a boat. We deliver that same kind of experience. In the process, we own a sizable number of boats, and our members can select the one they want," Chris says. We are also always buying new boats for our members. We switch our boats out every 2-3 years, so members are always riding around in brand-new or like-new boats. We are super excited this year about the boats and the additional boating opportunities that we will be providing for our valued members.

THE BEST OF ALL WORLDS

Those who own a boat understand the benefits. At the same time, they also know that ownership comes with ongoing responsibilities. "Here





with the Freedom Boat Club of the Grand Strand, we take all of those away," Chris explains. "Freedom Boat Club provides no-hassle boating This is boating made simple. We take care of all the hassles of boat ownership, including the maintenance, insurance costs, and dock fees. For some former boat owners, the 'biggest' hassle of boat ownership — was the cleaning of the boats, which are all managed by Freedom Boat Club. We do all the work so our members can focus on the fun."

Freedom Boat Club is a members-only boat club specializing in boats ranging from 18-27'. Instead of owning one boat, you can have access to a whole fleet of boats at 400+ locations across the United States as well as Canada, Europe, and Australia. We are worldwide now! Have you ever thought "It would be awesome to boat in Islamorada in the Keys or San Diego or the coast of Spain?" Freedom can facilitate that experience. Instead of renting a boat for \$500/day in one of these areas.

If you have a specific vision of your experience on the water, Freedom Boat Club has the boat for you. Instead of making a boat fit what type of boating you want to do whether it be cruising, fishing, or watersports, you choose the boat you want for the day. You can take a pontoon if you have twelve people for a cruise, reserve a center console fishing boat if you want to go fishing, or if you like skiing or tubing reserve one of our sports boats. Adventure awaits! On the Grand Strand, we have 4 locations where our members have unlimited access to 70+ boats.

AN EXPERIENCE FOR EVERYONE

Those who have an interest in boating ... but who do not have the experience ... have found the Freedom Boat Club the right place to begin their boating lives.

"When we have new members join the club, we give them tremendous support. We put them through a minimum of four hours of one-on-one on-the-water training provided by our Coast Guard Licensed Captains. The training is unlimited and included in the membership" Chris explains. "We continue training until our members are comfortable on the water."

The club offers a wide range of boating experiences for its members. And, with more than seventy boats and four locations, the menu of options continues to grow.

TEAM SPIRIT

Chris is the first to shine the spotlight on the team at the Freedom Boat Club that makes the magic happen for members, including co-owner Paul Speckman, VP of Operations, Karen Berry, Dock Manager Dave Patterson, Fleet Manager Wilson Rankin, and more than twenty dock hands whose numbers swell during the peak of the summer boating months.

The group forms a family that extends inland, as well.

"We are more than just a boating club," Chris says. "We spend a lot







200

A GROWING PRESENCE

Freedom Boat Club has a growing presence around the world. The organization that got its start in Sarasota, Florida, in 1989, today boasts more than 400+ club locations worldwide.

"It is great to see the way people respond to what we are doing. Folks

do not need to buy one boat and only have that one type of boat to enjoy. With Freedom Boat Club, they are getting a whole fleet of boats," Chris emphasizes. "It is a very cost-effective way for people to live the boating lifestyle.

A FEELING LIKE FAMILY

Chris treasures time spent with family, including his wife, Ashley, and their three daughters — 22-year-old Sydney, 14-year-old Ellory, and 13-year-old Avery.

That family feeling extends to the seven hundred-plus members of the Freedom Boat Club of the Grand Strand and Southport. "Our members are like family. When we find out someone is in the hospital, we send flowers and visit them. What we do here is not just about the boats. It is about the relationships we get the opportunity to build with people. We try to send personal thank you notes and one of our favorite events is our annual Christmas Party attended by 300+ members." Boating is about enjoying time with family and friends and it's our job to facilitate that experience.

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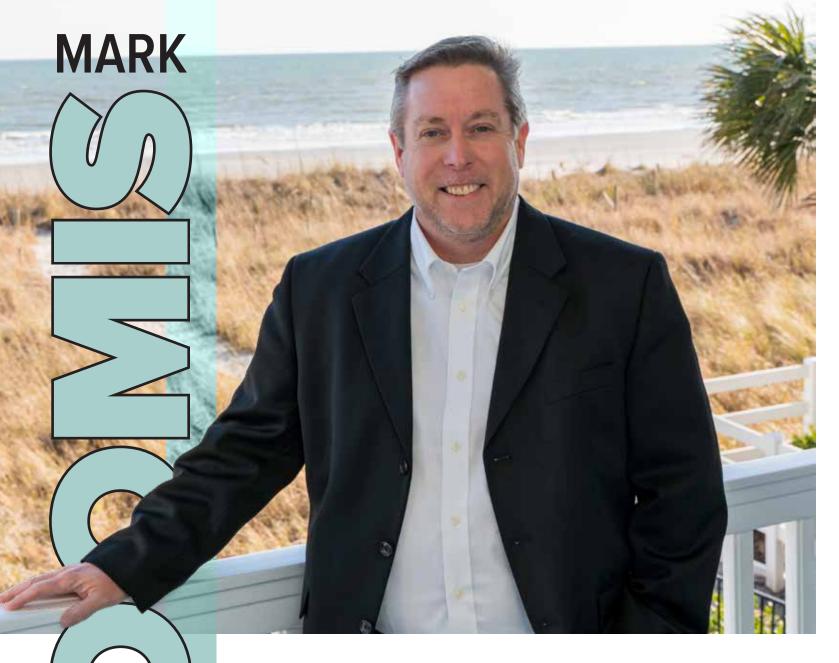
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INNOVATE REAL ESTATE

A Journey of Resilience & Success in Myrtle Beach Real Estate

Each sale in the Myrtle Beach real estate world spins a unique tale and every agent has a different journey to share. In Mark's 28-year tenure as a REALTOR®, he has not only weathered the market's ebbs and flows but has also navigated personal challenges with grit and grace.

A Twist of Fate: From Law School Dreams to Real Estate Reality

"My real estate career began in 1996," Mark reminisces, "when I found myself at a crossroads. My grandfather was a New York state judge which influenced my dreams of pursuing law." However, fate had other plans in store. After graduating from Wofford college in 1994, he was not sure that Law was the career he wanted to pursue even though he had scored well on the LSAT. So he returned to Myrtle Beach and took a job as a server where he spent two years learning all about customer service.

A serendipitous encounter with a former colleague, now thriving as a successful REALTOR®, sparked a transformative

journey for Mark. Inspired by the suggestion to explore the field, Mark swiftly transitioned from contemplating Law School, to embarking on a different career path. Less than 35 days after that encounter, Mark had taken the Real Estate Course, passed the test, and became a licensed REALTOR®!

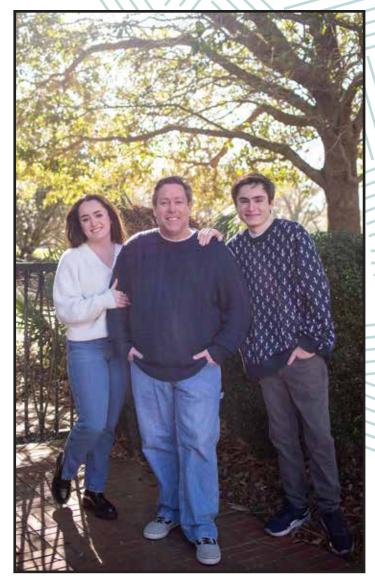
He was enticed by the autonomy and flexibility that the profession promised. "He fondly recalls starting this work in a time when professionals relied on MLS books for their listings, phones were tied to your desk by a squiggly cord, and the internet was in its infancy. In those days, the pinnacle of technological marvel in the office was none other than the fax machine!"

Forging His Own Path: Defying Expectations and Finding Success

With an indomitable spirit and a thirst for independence, he carved his niche in the real estate realm, eschewing conventional training programs for a hands-on approach. Armed with sheer determination and an insatiable hunger for knowledge, he immersed himself in the nuances of the market, mastering his craft through trial and error.

Mark relays, "Having lived in Myrtle Beach since 1981, I was familiar with the area as a local resident, but I had no idea about the housing market. So, I got in my car or on my motorcycle and drove around the county. As I came across a new housing neighborhood, I would stop in the onsite sales model, meet the onsite agent, tour any model homes they had, and then asked for a packet of information about that neighborhood. Next, I went to my local bank and asked to speak to the loan officer on duty. I went in to the lender's office and introduced myself as a new REALTOR and I told the gentleman that I needed to know everything in his head about financing."

"When I needed to know an answer that either a buyer or seller asked me, and I did not know the answer, I



would either ask my Broker-in-Charge, other agents in the office, or I'd find the answer myself.

"My company was able to provide some leads to me and within the first three months of starting, I had placed 6 properties under contract which all closed within a 30-day period. That windfall both motivated me and provided the capital I needed to get started."

From Small-Town Roots to Local Legacy

Mark shares, "My journey mirrors the resilience of the vibrant coastal community I call home. My first eight years were spent in a town of less than 800 people, near Cooperstown, NY, with four main roads and no traffic lights. I found solace and inspiration in the unwavering determination of my mother, who juggled pursuing a nursing degree while single-handedly raising three children. Her enduring support and wise counsel have been guiding lights throughout my odyssey."

Overcoming Obstacles: From Divorce to Triumph

Mark continues, "Like any odyssey, my journey has been punctuated by trials, including a divorce that tested my mettle and reshaped my priorities. Yet, from this adversity, I emerged stronger

>>> feature agent

Written By Anita Jones
Photography By Jeremy Kierez
- High Tide Photography

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Mark finds fulfillment in imparting his wisdom to the next generation of agents. He specializes in mentoring investors and sharing insights gleaned from decades of experience. Whether conducting classes or offering guidance, he endeavors to empower others to find their footing and thrive in the dynamic realm of real estate. He is also well known for his humor in his teaching!

Finding Joy in Making Dreams a Reality

Mark says, "For me, the true essence of success lies not in accolades or material wealth, but in the lives touched and dreams realized. Whether assisting first-time homebuyers in achieving the dream of homeownership or helping investors, towards financial security, my greatest reward is witnessing the joy and transformation that real estate can bestow."

"As I look towards the future, my aspiration is to be remembered not for transactions closed or commissions earned, but for the integrity and compassion with which I conducted myself, both professionally and personally. From treating every individual with

dignity, to fostering a culture of positivity and generosity, I want my legacy to be one of authenticity and empathy."

Embracing Life's Adventures: From Spontaneous Road Trips to Lasting Memories

Beyond the realms of real estate, Mark enjoys life's simple pleasures—whether it's a spirited game of tennis, a leisurely stroll along the beach, or embarking on impromptu adventures. From coast to coast, he savors the freedom of the open road and the thrill of exploration, cherishing every moment along the way. He loves spending time with his two kids, a 21-year-old daughter and a son who is a freshman at Clemson.

Lessons Learned and Words of Wisdom

Mark loves to share the pearls of wisdom he has gleaned from a lifetime of experiences. "Embrace change, nurture resilience, and never underestimate the potency of kindness. Whether navigating the vicissitudes of the real estate market or the labyrinth of life itself, remember that success is not measured by the destination but by the journey itself. Here's to embracing the adventure and savoring every precious moment."

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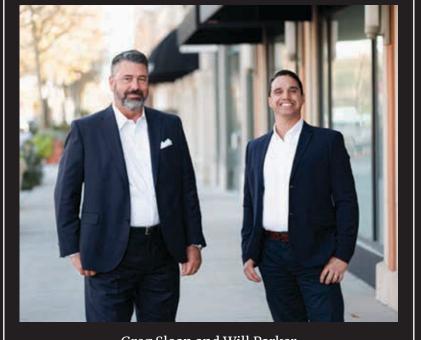
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Greg Sloan and Will Parker





FROM BANKING TO REAL ESTATE A DECADE OF DEDICATION & DIVINE DIRECTION

here is an air of warmth and sincerity that one immediately feels when meeting Kyle Hawley. He has a knack for putting people at ease. Here is a man who has navigated the unpredictable waters of life and business with an unwavering faith and a determined spirit. Kyle's journey has carried him from banking to real estate, a path illuminated by his steadfast belief in God's plan.

"It has been quite the ride," Kyle begins, his eyes reflecting the wisdom of years spent in both corporate corridors and bustling real estate markets. "This year marks my 10th anniversary as a realtor.' Reflecting on his beginnings, Kyle recounts his transition from a stable banking career to the dynamic world of real estate. "I started with Dunes Realty in August of 2015, and I love being able to work with life-long friends," he recalls. "But before that, I had dipped my toes in various professional waters".

Kyle's journey had its roots in the banking sector, where he spent years honing his skills in finance and customer service. "After graduating from Clemson University in 2007, I began my professional career as a lender at Conway National Bank," he shares. "But it wasn't until 2012, after

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a two-year stint as Vice President/South Strand Manager at Coastal Carolina National Bank, that I realized banking was not my true calling."

For Kyle, the decision to pivot towards real estate was deeply influenced by his familial ties and personal passion. "My father was in real estate locally for the majority of his career," he explains, "and I've always had a passion for the industry."

Yet, the transition wasn't without its challenges. Kyle and his wife, Lauren, faced uncertainties as they embarked on this new

chapter of their lives. They just welcomed their 2nd daughter to their family and they wanted Lauren to be able to stay home with the children when they were little. This would be a major pivot for them personally and professionally as both were in stable and well-paying careers. Going from two good salaries to one income that was based on commission would be a huge leap of faith. "We prayed for guidance and wisdom," Kyle recounts, "and when the opportunity presented itself, we knew it was God's hand at work."

Embracing the unpredictability of real estate, Kyle found fulfillment in the flexibility it offered, despite the initial hurdles. Kyle admits, "In the beginning years, it was difficult, but now, there is far more balance."

Throughout his journey, Kyle's dedication to his clients has remained unwavering. He has enjoyed working with his fellow agents, who at Dunes Realty, who are the cream of the crop. He was very proud that he was able to be the top agent in the office in his second full year in real estate with 69 transactions as well as total volume. It proved his drive, banking experience, and passion for his career paid off. "My business success is solely based on client referrals and repeat clients," he emphasizes. "If you don't have these, you are not treating your clients correctly."

Beyond the confines of his professional life, Kyle finds joy in his family and community. With his wife and three daughters by his side, he cherishes moments spent cheering for their beloved Clemson Tigers or enjoying outdoor adventures that our area provides.

Being born and raised along the South Strand, Kyle loves giving back to the community that provided him such a wonderful upbringing. He is a cur-

rent Board Member and Past
President of the Murrells Inlet
Rotary club. He is also heavily
involved with his church, former
Treasurer for the Garden City
Beach Community Association,
as well as a former council
member for the South Strand
Chamber of Commerce.

An interesting fact about Kyle's family is that his oldest child was the first girl born in the Hawley family in 78 years. And

then two younger sisters shortly followed.

BE YOURSELF

AND NEVER

COMPROMISE

YOUR

INTEGRITY.

Kyle's words of wisdom for aspiring realtors is,"Be yourself and never compromise your integrity."

With a heart filled with gratitude and a spirit guided by faith, Kyle Hawley continues to redefine success, one client at a time. His journey is a testament to the power of perseverance and the guiding hand of providence.

KYLE'S FAVORITE BIBLE VERSE AND TOP QUOTES ARE AS FOLLOWS.

- Proverbs 16:9: "We can make our plans, but the Lord determines our steps", a guiding principle in Kyle's life.
- Ralph Waldo Emerson: "What you do speaks so loudly that I cannot hear what you say", a reminder of the importance of actions over words.
- Walter Bagehot: "The greatest pleasure in life is doing what others say you cannot do", embodying Kyle's resilient spirit and determination to over-

With these insights into Kyle's personal preferences and guiding principles, it is evident that his journey extends far beyond the confines of his professional life. He is not only a dedicated realtor but also a man of faith, integrity, and unwavering commitment to his family and community. As Kyle continues to navigate the ever-evolving landscape of real estate, one thing remains certain—his legacy will be defined not only by his business acumen but by the profound impact he leaves on those around him.









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