



Brenda Blisk

Blisk Financial Group

Name

Brenda Blisk

Company

The Blisk Financial Group
at Spire Investment Partners
7918 Jones Branch Drive, # 750
McLean, VA 22102
(703) 748-5828

E-mail

Brenda.Blisk@SpireIP.com

Education

Tennessee Technology University in
Cookeville, TN, and George
Peabody College, part of Vander-
bilt University, in Nashville, TN

Who were the important mentors you have had and how did they impact your career?

My mother was my most important mentor. She taught me to treat people the way I would like to be treated and to follow the Ten Commandments.

What do you consider your biggest accomplishment and why?

Successfully helping women and their families navigate through significant life changes like widowhood, career success and divorce for the past 23 years.

What advice would you give to a young person graduating from college this spring?

Always put your best foot forward – do your very best at everything you do. Everyone appreciates working with a person with a “can do” attitude!

How do you achieve a balance between your professional life and your personal life?

God is the center of my life. My clients become like family and my personal and professional life blends together – just great. I love what I do.

When you were growing up, what did you want to be?

I wanted to be a majorette. I started taking baton twirling lessons at the local Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Hall after school from

the Tennessee Twirling Institute, whose staff came to town and gave lessons once a week. I entered the Miss Tennessee USTA (United States Twirling Association) pageant. The week-long competition with other Tennessee beauties included modeling an evening gown and swimsuit, a talent competition and baton twirling. I won my first state title and went on to compete and win the Miss America USTA pageant held in Miami.

What is your favorite book or movie and why?

“Miracle” is my favorite movie; it is about the 1980 USA Hockey Team, which went on to win the 1980 Olympic Gold Medal against all odds by beating the Russian Team. It just reminds us that miracles do happen!

What are two things about you that most people, including your closest friends, may not know?

I grew up on a dairy farm in McMinnville, TN (population 13,000). The eldest of six children, I learned the value of hard work, rising each morning at 5:30 to help round up and milk a herd of 100 cows on the family dairy farm before going to school. Three of my six siblings still operate a nursery and garden center back home in McMinnville.

I saved money for college by winning beauty pageants, starting when I was 16. I had stopped at the local Dairy Queen (ice cream is my favorite treat!) and the director of the Warren County “Fairest of the Fair” pageant suggested that I enter the pageant. To my mother’s surprise, I did! My mother made my pageant gown out of white slipper satin. The gown cost less than \$20. Yes, I did win.

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