

Life on the Water Leads to Unique Father-Son Bond

Father's Day Means Something More at Sea Tow Palm Beach

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. – Captain Will Beck cruises along the beautiful Palm Beach waters in his bright yellow Sea Tow boat, keeping an eye out on local boaters as he awaits his next call. At his side is his son, Chandler, who serves as a part-time captain at Sea Tow Palm Beach – the boating franchise his father has owned since before he was even born. The duo has made this journey countless times before; but as Will looks over to his son, a smile comes across his face as he remembers all the good times his family has shared on these boats over the years.

It was the fall of 1985. Will and his brother, Richard, were just starting out on a new venture as they opened one of the Sunshine State's first Sea Tow locations in their home town of West Palm Beach. In those early days, Will never could have imagined the impact it would have on his family.

Some 33 years later, nearly everything has changed, except for the franchise's close-knit, family-focused mindset. Today, instead of patrolling the Palm Beach waters with his brother, Will cruises along with Connor and his younger brother, Chandler.

That's what makes Father's Day so special for the Becks; but instead of dedicating just one Sunday in June to their dad, Chandler and Connor celebrate year-round.

The two boys – now 24 and 30 years old, respectively – have shared their father's love for the water their entire lives. By the time they were five months old, each boy was already water safe. At a year, they were sporting tiny masks and snorkels.

"My wife Cathy and I have pictures of the two of them running around with the smallest Sea Tow shirts we could get our hands on," Will said. "We had a house boat as an office for years, so being around the water has always been second nature."

That shared love for the water is what makes the family's bond so special. Both sons have developed advanced marine skillsets over the years of working with their father – skills that have already landed each a successful career in the marine industry from a very early age.

Connor is an ASE certified mechanic and a full-time employee at Sea Tow Palm Beach. He loves tinkering with the franchise's boats and other equipment and even led his own crew during the Deepwater Horizon oil spill cleanup while many of his peers still had their faces buried in textbooks. His brother, Chandler, works as a full-time diver for a specialized diving company after spending years under his father's wing.

But it isn't just Beck's two sons who have built a career from their father's passion for the water. Over the years, Will has helped mentor around 30 young men – a number of whom have ended up in local fire and sheriff's departments, working dock jobs or with insurance companies – people Will works with nearly every day and whom he has developed a unique working relationship.

"Some of these men have needed a lot of help and others, not as much, but it's all about leading them in the right direction and helping them discover their passions," Will said. "It's been such a gratifying experience. Most of them are now doing very well for themselves, and I couldn't be prouder of that."

In their free time, the Becks enjoy diving and fishing as a family. They've taken countless trips in search of that prize Cobia or Yellow Fin Tuna. Sometimes, they even go diving with sharks. Ultimately, it's all about spending time with one another and sharing that long-lasting bond that was built upon a life on the water.

"It's been so amazing to be able to have my sons by my side all these years," Will said. "I have no complaints whatsoever."

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