2103 Top Ten Photos

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This shot at the Peoria Zoo was two years in the making. The Peoria Park District was wanting some photos of the different zoo animals in the snow and it took us a couple of years for us to get a big enough snow fall to make for some good photos. Getting this photo was pure luck in the sense that Lizzy the lioness had been walking around and at some point she laid down on the rocks and "posed" for me for about 10 seconds and then got back up! I watched her for awhile after this and she never did lay down again while I was there!



I've been very fortunate to be able to work with some celebrities in my career and working with 80's supermodel and entrepreneur Kathy Ireland will rank right up there! I was shooting stills on a three day video shoot with Kathy and she is one of the nicest and kindest people you will ever meet! She could have had a diva attitude with her fame, but she is the complete opposite!!! She reminds me of my buddy Mike Rowe who also has a lot of the same characteristics as Kathy. Both are very humble, warm and approachable! I saw Kathy make time for photos and autographs durning the three days and couldn't have been nicer!





This is one of those shots that technically I was able to pull off with one of my special camera toys. I have a special camera head that is designed to take photos like this 360 degree photo of the "Big Room" at the Caterpillar Visitors Center here in Peoria! This one photo is made from 72 individual photographs of the room and assembled in the computer!

I love shooting
photos of and
working with our
farmers! These
men and women
make the food that
we enjoy everyday
and without them,
we'd be in serious
trouble!!!!

There are two seasons in farming, planting and harvesting. For this shot planting isn't nearly as sexy as harvesting, so we did a shot with the setting sun and our farmer getting ready to plant his crops!





I was able to shoot the 'Women of Faith" event at the Peoria Civic Center and it was a very challenging shoot! To try and get some good crowd shots really was a mater of getting lucky because there were so many women that getting a clear view wasn't always the easiest! This is one of my favorite shots from that day and I can see joy and hope in this woman's face!



In June I was down in Canton, Illinois to shoot the 22nd annual "Cruise In"! I always love going and shooting at these cars shows especially with the vintage cars from the 50's and 60's! The turquoise color of the Cadillac was the perfect contrast for the red tails lights on this beautiful 1959 Coupe de Ville!



There's just something about taps being played by a solo trumpet that always grabs me. At this years "Tee it up for the troops" event at the Country Club of Peoria, this Air Force sergeant cranked out taps with the American and Marine flags in the background and the crowd was so silent, you could have heard a pin drop!



Senior Illinois US Senator Dick Durbin paid a visit to Case IH's Goodfield, Illinois factory to take a tour of the plant and also talk with some of the workers. It can be very difficult to be in the right place at the right time on a gig like this and there's a lot of luck involved to be able to get a great snap like this!



Sometimes you have to do shoots in conditions that aren't always the most desirable. This shoot in West Texas in July was one of those shoots! It was 105 degrees and humid at this oil rig that we were shooting at. The sweat is getting in your eyes and burning and it makes it tough to even see at times! Despite the heat, we were still able to come away with a lot of get photos and that's what being a professional is all about!

I always love it when you have some creative freedom to try different things durning a shoot! On this shot, when I saw Robert dressed with this football gear for Schutt Sports, I had the feeling that he looked like an astronaut or a fighter pilot, so I wanted to play up that look. By putting the lights at the side, I was able to get a great reflection in the clear face shield and it helped accentuate that look!



