

I have had a couple of days to think about what I should say today.

We are here to remember Jack and what he meant to us.

As I thought I remembered how I was not Jack's favorite person!

Our story: Not sure if you know how we got to Rochester. But in 1962 7 children and 3 adults drove from Ft. Worth, Texas to Rochester in a 64 Chevy. Imagine if you will 3 adults, 7 children ranging in age from 3-13? Eddie and I would act up and we had to ride inside a U-Hall trailer.

When we arrived, we lived in a 2-room apartment. We were young and confused. Being the oldest of the group we just never did get along.

I can look back now as an adult, here was a man who took in 7 children and cared for them as if they were his own and did the best he could. I never heard him complain once.

About 10 years ago, I am pleased to say that I made peace with Jack and thanked him for what he did and what he tried to do for us kids. I am very glad I did make this peace for I would today regret it.

I was not able to say GOODBYE but I know he knew how I felt in my heart.

I could never bring myself to call him DAD. I know the rest of the kids did. Eddie called him Duke! But I can say in the end I could call him a friend.

Again, looking back I realize he honored his commitment to our mother. He was a faithful companion to Mom for over 50 years! He was there for all the kids.

Where is he now? We know his ashes are here but where is his spirit? For those who believe in GOD and eternal life, we believe that Jack is with GOD. Is he? I don't know. I do believe we all will know someday.

Earlier I read some words from the Bible. To those who believe that the bible is the word of GOD we can find comfort in GOD's promises to those who do believe and are Faithful. For those who do not believe they were only words. I believe Jack believed in GOD and therefore expect what GOD had promised is what Jack

and all of us can expect when our body dies. Like I said , and as it says in the BIBLE one day, we will know all the answers.

Mom, I know you are hurting. You have endured much pain in your life. With the loss of 3 children and now Jack. But you are a believer, and you have FAITH. And you know that GOD says he will never give you more than you can endure. You know you will get through this.

In closing I want to encourage you to do a few things:

1. Here is your chance to say what is in your heart about Jack. For years I would leave funerals and regret that I did not take the opportunity to speak my heart about someone who has died.
2. Make Peace with each other before it is too late. If there is someone you are at odds with go to them in private one on one and say you forgive them. Image if that person was to die and you had to live your life knowing you could have made peace.
3. Get right with GOD. Not be religious so other people can see you but start a personal relationship with GOD. If you believe there is a GOD then act like it. Encourage one another to do the right thing.

Again, Jack thanks for all you did for us and all you tried to do for us. I speak for those who you gave protection, food and shelter and say we are grateful.

To all of you,

Today begins the rest of your life...