

EULOGY

"Dad"
"John"
"Grandpa"
"Jackie"
"Brother"
"Son"
"Uncle Jack"

My father played many roles in his life. I guess we all knew him in a different way, and yet he was only one person. But one person with so many facets, so many fine qualities, and so many lovable traits.

Memories of Dad are alive within us, and always will be. Pausing now to remember just what it was about my father that made him so special to each of us, we can recall:

How proud he was to be a fireman. The courage he showed, and the comradery he enjoyed with his brother Joe, nephew Frank, and all his friends at No. 1's House.

We recall his jovial personality. Whether it was teasing a child with his "Monkeyshines", giving a favorite nephew his famous knucklebuster handshake, or joking with the church choir during singing practice, Dad filled our lives with laughter.

Being the youngest in a large family, there's no doubt he enjoyed being pampered. My mom always said Dad's 7 favorite words were, "Make me a cup of hot tea". Dad certainly loved a little TLC and attention.

There was a serious, more reverent side to my father, too. After he retired, the men's renewal Dad made became the turning point in his life. Dad poured out his love for people through acts of charity. Whether it was running one of his homecooked meals to the widow down the street, or distributing holy communion to hospitalized cancer patients, Dad always found the time and the will to do for someone else.

Dad served the church in other ways, too, as overgrown altar boy and faithful choir member. How my father enjoyed singing, or "crooning" as he called it. Whatever he gave to the Corpus Christi choir with his rich bass voice, I'm sure he got back tenfold in the friendships he made.

Yes, Dad did give us much to remember him by:

- His compassion for animals, especially his Heidi
- His sweet tooth
- His flower and vegetable gardens, and the joy he got from working with plants
- His talent for cooking good meals at home or at the firehouse
- His love of woodworking, and his skills as carpenter and wallpaperer

My father's qualities, his habits, his quirks, we remember all of them.

One final thought:

My dad felt a special bond with all of his family members: the Leisz's, Cravens, Westfalls, Davis', and Waters.

I know he got alot of happiness from the time he spent with all of you. He may not have seen you that often, but that didn't lessen the joy he felt in your company.

Perhaps it's fitting Dad left us during Christmas, his favorite time of the year. I think he wouldn't want us to forget how joyous the season of Christ's birth is. We know that he's celebrating his happiest Christmas right now.

There's an old saying:

"When you were born, you cried and the world rejoiced. Live your life so that when you die, the world cries and you rejoice."

Dad certainly lived his life to it's fullest, and I know he's rejoicing today. Let's all be joyful with him!!

JOHN L. LEISZ

March 29, 1921 to December 20, 1988



We love you and we'll sure miss you!