

## Jay Pollard Memorial Service – August 29, 2015

Prelude music -- Margie

Welcome, opening remarks, prayer –

Jay Hardy Pollard POST-Jay Hardy Pollard, beloved husband, father, back porch **storyteller** and friend, passed from this life to the next Wednesday, Aug. 26, 2015. Although born Sep. 9, 1955, in Cisco, Texas, to Jimmy and Sammie Pollard, Jay was a long time son of Post, Texas. From skinned knees to Friday night lights to Main Street, he lived, laughed, loved and occasionally **pranked** many if not most of the town's residents. A man of integrity, hard work and dedication and a heart full of love for his family and friends. He was a high school All-American Football player. **His love of football would bring him many things including the love of his life, Sherry Hammond whom he met while playing an All Star Game in Childress, Texas.** He played two years of college football at Sul Ross University - winning defensive rookie of the year honors before his love for Sherry brought him back to Post. The two were married in the First Christian Church of Post on July 30, 1976. **(Football was important – family even more so – and always.) (Family and Community).** A long time business man and entrepreneur, Jay along with his father established Handy Oilfield Supply Company in 1974. He was a member of the Masonic Lodge and served at one time as the worshipful master. His love for his community spanned to memberships of several civic committees including President of the Chamber of Commerce, Little League, American Red Cross, Volunteer Fire Department, Rodeo Association and longtime supporter of the Bold Gold Antelopes. Jay was preceded in death by his parents, James E. and Minta Sam Pollard. **(And he leaves a legacy of love)** He is survived by his wife, **Sherry** of Post; two daughters, **Nikki** Langford and husband **Nathan** of Midland, Texas, **Natalie** Husen and husband **Zach** of Graham, Texas; son, **Jace** Pollard and wife **Jordan** of Post, Texas; two brothers, Jim Pollard of Shallowater, Texas, and Greg Pollard of Lucas, Texas; four grandchildren, **Hayden Husen, Alex Husen, Drew Langford and Hudson Langford.** Memorial Services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday at the Frist Presbyterian Church in Post with Dr. Jerry Koch officiating. Memorial donations may be made to the Joe Arrington Cancer Center of Lubbock, Texas, or Post Volunteer Fire Department. -

Prayer: Our God of grace and glory, we remember and honor Jay today and we thank you for giving him to us to know and to love. By your compassionate presence, console us in our mourning. Inspire in us the

**confidence of a certain faith, the comfort of holy hope, and the peace which passes all understanding; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.**

**Scripture readings –**

**Psalm 121**

**I lift up mine eyes unto the hills. From whence cometh my help?  
My help cometh from the Lord, who made the heavens and the earth.  
He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber.  
Behold, he who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.  
The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade on your right hand.  
The sun shall not smite you by day, nor the moon by night.  
The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.  
The Lord will watch over your going out and your coming in  
from this time forth and for evermore.**

**Psalm 23**

**The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want.  
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures. He leadeth me beside the still  
waters. He restoreth my soul.  
He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake  
Ye though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I will fear no evil for thou art with me. Thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.  
Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies.  
Thou annointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.  
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life.  
And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.**

**John 14:1-3.**

**Let not your hearts be troubled; believe in God, believe also in me. In my  
Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so would I have told you that  
I go and prepare a place for you? And when I go and prepare a place for  
you, I will come again and take you to myself, that where I am, you may be  
also.**

**Vocal Solo: "I'll Fly Away." – Ira Kelly, Soprano**

**Scripture and Sermon –  
Jay Pollard August 29, 2015**

**22 Then he made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. 23 And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, 24 but the boat by this time was many furlongs distant from the land, beaten by the waves; for the wind was against them. 25 And in the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea. 26 But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out for fear. 27 But immediately he spoke to them, saying, "Take heart, it is I; have no fear." 28 And Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, bid me come to you on the water." 29 He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus; 30 but when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord, save me." 31 Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "O man of little faith, why did you doubt?" 32 And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. 33 And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."**

**St. Peter is among our most revered saints.. I revere St. Peter for his bold forthright approach to life, especially when the chips were down. Sometimes he was down in his chips by reasons of his own doing – denying Jesus three times during the crucifixion. But Jesus makes it right with him and he becomes the leader of the first century Church.**

**My favorite story of Peter is the one I just read. The story is usually captioned in the Bible as "Jesus walking on the water." And that image has been the subject of art, metaphor, and folklore through the ages. I prefer to think of it as Peter walking on the water.**

**A storm is raging. The disciples see no way out. Suddenly Jesus is walking toward them through the waves. Everyone understood they were saved, and most were content to wait for Jesus to come to them. Not Peter. "Bid me come to you," he cries. I imagine Jesus rolling his eyes and giving a wink. "Come on." So Peter walks on water. Sort of like the cartoon character that keeps on running after going off a cliff. Peter keeps on walking, until he can't. Which is when Jesus reaches him and pulls him out of the drink. Saying, essentially, "I got your back."**

**Jay knew this mindset. Embraced the idea. Give it a shot. I'll take that bet. Lets try it. He know his people, and his Lord, had his back.**

**A couple of years ago, Jay invited me to play with him and another**

friend in a charity golf tournament. And in addition to the entry fee, you could support the charity by buying lengths of string. \$1 a foot. And you could use that string out on the course to lengthen or shorten a shot such that, for example, if you left a 20 foot putt a foot short, you put down a foot of string and the putt was good. Lots of birdies when you got some string.

So we all bought I guess 20 or 30 feet. And we used a lot of it pretty quick. So by the 15<sup>th</sup> hole, we were out of string and out of birdies. But we were having fun. So while we're waiting to tee off on 16, the concession cart comes by and we all get a cold drink. And we notice she's got a whole ball of string in the passenger seat. We asked her what that was about and she said it was the leftovers from the string sale. We looked at each other – and by consensus, we gave her 100 bucks for it. Big ball of string.

So 16 is a par 4, 380 yards or so, and our drives land about 125 out. As we're getting ready to hit the next shot, Jay says, "Gimme that string." And "Hold this end." So he takes off in the cart toward the green. And the ball of string reaches the hole. The drive is good. Hole in one. Double eagle. Cause "We got us some string!"

"We got some string." A metaphor for a mindset. Give it a shot. I'll take that bet. Lets try it. That's how he fought multiple myeloma for 8 years. 4 times the early estimate of how long a good fight would probably last. He and Sherry were Team Kick Cancer's Backside. To the point where he wound up in uncharted territory, teaching the doctors what the disease does when its losing. All along also giving hope and courage to other patients as well as the docs and their team. I only half tongue in cheek told Sherry one time that her managing the process while Jay fought the battles earned her what amounts to a residency in oncology.

A journalist named Jory Graham did some similar cancer kicking several years ago, and her book about it is called, "In the Company of Others." She brought the same mindset to her fight and said this rather late in the game. She wrote, "I'm not dying today. And I won't die before I must. I have today with my people."

That's how you walk on water. You walk on, until you can't. But in the meantime, you love, share, tell jokes, sometimes buy a little more string, but mostly you count on those who have your back, and you give a little something back to them along the way.

This was just a couple of weeks ago. Jay and Sherry and I were talking while Jay was getting platelets and God knows what all else up at Joe Arrington. As I was leaving, Jay caught my eye and said, voice rasping a little but unmistakably forthright and strong, "What can we do for you."

Honestly I was just awestruck and don't even remember what lame

answer I gave. But I should have said, “Keep on walking on water.”

Until you can’t. And then, count on the Lord to pull you to safety for all time. And count on us to honor your memory by holding onto your courage. That’s what I think Jay would say to us. Cause you got you some string. You got people who love you. You got things you know how to do. So get after it.

Honor Jay’s memory each day. Because none of us is dying today. All of won’t die before we must. We have today. We got us some string! With our people. And with the Lord who’s got our back. And who has reached to Jay and brought him safely home.

God of all grace, you sent your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to bring life and immortality to light. We give you thanks because by his death Jesus destroyed the power of death and by his resurrection has opened the kingdom of heaven to all. We pray that we might be ever more certain that because he lives we shall live also, and that neither death nor life, nor things present nor things to come shall be able to separate us from your love which comes to us in Christ Jesus, who taught us to pray together ... Amen.

**Benediction and Prayer –**

To Honor Jay - Go into the world in peace. Have courage. Hold onto what is good. Return to no-one evil for evil. Strengthen the fainthearted support the weak, help the suffering. Honor all people. Speak and act with love on your lips and in your heart.

For it is into your hands O merciful savior that we commend your servant Jay Hardy. Acknowledge him, we pray, a sheep of your own fold, a lamb of your own flock. Receive him into the arms of your mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious company of all the saints in light. Amen.

Let us go in Peace.

Postlude music -- Margie