

A Celebration of Life for Robert Cox. January 9, 2013

Prelude

Call to Celebration:

Leader: Jesus said, I am the Resurrection and the Life.

All: He who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live.

Leader: And whoever lives and believes on me shall never die. (John 11:25-26)

All: Let us worship the one in whom we believe and share our memories of the one we love.

Prayer

Scripture Promises—John 14:1-3

Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?" And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also.

Song of Faith.....*Abide With Me*

Abide with me! Fast falls the eventide.
The darkness deepens, Lord, with me abide!
When other helpers fail, and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me!

Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
Earth's joy grow dim, its glories pass away.
Change and decay in all around I see;
O Thou, who changest not, abide with me!

I need Thy presence every passing hour;
What but Thy grace can foil all evil power?
Who, like Thyself, my guide and stay can be?
Through life and death, O Lord, abide with me!

Scripture Promises—Romans 8: 35-39

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, "For thy sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered. No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to

come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Obituary

Robert Cox was born in Snyder, Texas on April 28, 1917 to Stella and R. E. Cox. He was the fifth of six children. He moved to Post as an infant and graduated from Post High School in 1935. After high school, Robert attended Texas Tech and worked for Wm Cameron Co. in Lubbock.

In 1940, Robert married Wanda Jo Moore of Ralls, Texas, in a ceremony in Lubbock. He was transferred by his company to Corpus Christi where he and Wanda lived until he entered the service as a part of the Army Air Corps in 1942. He was stationed primarily in Herington, Kansas.

After the war, Robert returned to Post where he owned and operated R. E. Cox Lumber Company for 38 years before retiring in 1982. He remained in Post until he moved to Boerne in 2006, and subsequently, to San Antonio in 2010.

In Post, Robert was an elder at First Christian Church, and a 32nd degree Mason. He served as president of the school board, and he was on the city council and board of the Garza County Museum. In addition, he was a director of the Lumberman's Association of Texas and was interim director of Old Mill Trade Days.

Robert was predeceased by his parents and by all five of his siblings. He is survived by his wife of 72 years, Wanda, his daughter, Lin Alyn Duncan, and his son-in-law, Wendell Duncan of San Antonio. Robert is also survived by his grandsons, Lane Duncan (Lee) of Dallas and Bart Duncan (Andi) of Albuquerque, two great grandchildren, Emma and Isaac Duncan of Dallas, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Burial will be in the Post Terrace Cemetery under the direction of Hudman Funeral Home. While the family appreciates the beauty and sentiment of flowers, those who wish can make a memorial gift to the First Christian Church of Post or to the charity of their choice.

Song of Faith.....*It is Well With My Soul*

When peace, like a river, attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll;
What ever my lot, Thou has taught me to say,
It is well, it is well, with my soul.

Refrain:

It is well, with my soul.
It is well, it is well, with my soul.

For me, be it Christ, be it Christ hence to live;
If Jordan above me shall roll,
No pang shall be mine, for in death as in life,
Thou wilt whisper Thy peace to my soul.

And Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight;
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll;
The trump shall resound, and the Lord shall descend,
Even so, it is well with my soul.

Scripture Promises—Revelation 21: 3-4

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.

Message of Hope..... (Rev. Elizabeth Abraham)

MESSAGE OF HOPE

We meet today as family and friends to remember and to celebrate the grand and full life of Robert Cox, who has probably just about had enough time to assess the landscape of heaven and get it's operations more efficiently structured and running smoothly! We all know that Robert was most likely the best organized and most thorough businessman in Post and as you might guess, he planned every detail of his funeral arrangements, wrote his own obituary, and made notes on the songs, scriptures, preachers and even what music Margie was to play for the introit and the postlude! Robert did not want Curtis or anyone to re-tie the necktie he was to be buried in which he meticulously tied before he got sick, and he instructed Jerry or I to be brief and “not flowery!” I usually do everything imaginable to please the family when I speak at someone's funeral but today, I feel like I'm working for Robert and don't want to screw things up because if everything works out for me someday I may have to answer to Robert and not Jesus or St. Peter!

If I am allowed in heaven some day after Robert's reorganization, I will let him know I thought he left one very important scripture out of his funeral service, one that guided all he did during his lifetime. Please listen as I read what St. Paul wrote to the people of

Corinth in **I Corinthians 14: 37 – 40**: “Anyone who claims to be a prophet or to have spiritual powers, must acknowledge that what I am writing to you is a command of the Lord. So, my friends, all things should be done decently and in order.”

And that he did, with much love and care for others! Janie Davis and Sandra Alexander both said that when Robert was in charge of buildings and grounds at this church, no one worried a bit about the maintenance and upkeep as everyone knew that Robert was not only thorough and dependable but proper and ethical and was a man of extreme integrity! Robert loved this church and the faith community he and Wanda nurtured and experienced here while they lived in Post.

Robert was not afraid of hard work and as a young man in a large family during the Great Depression, he never took anything for granted. After working long hours to make a living, his hobby was doing yard work and Robert’s lawn in Post was always lovely! Robert loved to stop beside the roadway and dig up plants or take a handful of seeds from a plant. He would then replant them in his yard and give them to others. Robert supplied scores of people, in Post and later on in Leakey, with beautiful pink yucca plants from seeds he collected. After his retirement, Robert loved to spend time with many dear friends at their place in Leakey in the Hill Country where Robert loved keeping the lawn there “just right.”

Robert loved the out-of-doors and as a child, he, Tom Power, Paul Simpson, and other Post friends often camped out in the canyons and on the lawn of the Garza Country Court House! Cooper’s Canyon, a beautiful spot outside of town with a stream running through it, was one of their favorites and his initials are still carved there! When Lin Alyn was a child, Robert rented the use of an area, fishing tank for several years and stocked it with fish so that he could take Lin Alyn and her friends fishing. Robert also enjoyed taking Lin Alyn and her friends hiking in the canyons with him. Later on his grandsons, Lane and Bart became his hiking companions and on one trip one of the little guys found a huge rock that he wanted to keep. Robert cautioned that the rock would become too heavy for to carry, but his grandson insisted that he could do this. As it turned out,

Robert carried both the rock and the grandson out of the canyon, and Lin Alyn and Wendall have the rock in their flower bed today—a fitting reminder of a grandfather's love and devotion as well as the relationships and simple joys that sustain our lives from beginning to end!

Robert also loved trains. Lin Alyn said, “ I just assumed every family met the train when it pulled into town in the evenings! My parents noticed who was getting on and off, and being the detail man that he was, my father taught me to observe the hook on the freight trains picking up the mail as it roared past the depot without stopping.”

Robert's faith was an integral part of his life and he lived believing that to whom much is given, much is expected. Robert was extremely grateful for his lot in life and always sought to find ways to give back so that this world would become a better place and the people in his midst more blessed. He took seriously his responsibilities as an elder at this church and to his Masonic brotherhood as a 32nd degree Mason. Robert served as president of the school board, was on the city council and board of the Garza County Museum. In addition, he was a director of the Lumberman's Association of Texas and was interim director of Old Mill Trade Days.

Lastly, Robert loved his family and always did his best to teach them, guide them, love them and provide for them. One of his great joys was presenting both grandsons with new cars when they were in high school. Robert was married to his sweetheart, Wanda for 72 years! Their relationship brought out the best in the other and through the highs and lows and ordinary in between times, they gave each other much security, love and light-heartedness in their life together. In these last few months, Robert depended heavily on Wanda and constantly affirmed his love for her. Janie Davis remembers the time she came to pick Wanda up in bad weather to drive to Lubbock for a luncheon and style show and how Robert looked Janie in the eyes and said, “Now you take good care of her!”

Robert Cox died on Sunday evening full of life and faith and surrounded by the love of his dear family who so beautifully cared for him at the end, as he had so lovingly cared for them through the years. It is my hope that when Robert got to heaven, before he began tending to the details of all that Robert did best here on earth, I truly hope he felt our loving Lord's mighty embrace and was able to hear, "Well done, my good and faithful servant, well done!" Amen.

Song of Faith..... *Amazing Grace*

Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost, but now I'm found,
Was blind, but now I see.

Through many dangers, toils and snares
I have already come;
Tis Grace that brought me safe thus far,
And Grace will lead me home.

When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's grace,
Than when we first begun.

Postlude

Benediction