



JAMES GERALD RYAN

JANUARY 23, 1938 – SEPTEMBER 13, 2012

TOP OF THE MORNING, FAMILY AND FRIENDS. ON BEHALF OF OUR FAMILY, I WOULD LIKE TO THANK YOU ALL FOR COMING HERE TODAY TO CELEBRATE THE LIFE OF THIS GREAT IRISHMAN, A LOVING HUSBAND OF 64 YEARS, A FATHER OF FIVE CHILDREN, PAPA TO ALL THESE GRANDCHILDREN AND GREAT GRANDCHILDREN, UNCLE JIMMY TO ALL HIS NEPHEWS AND NIECES, A FRIEND AND CO-WORKER TO MANY. I CANNOT EXPRESS MYSELF ENOUGH HOW MUCH WE APPRECIATE YOU BEING HERE TODAY.

MY NAME IS GERALD JAMES RYAN, OLDEST SON OF JAMES AND PATRICIA RYAN. IT IS ONE OF THE GREATEST HONORS OF MY LIFE TO EULOGIZE MY FATHER AMONGST YOU, HIS FAMILY AND FRIENDS.

JAMES GERALD RYAN

BACK ON JANUARY 23, 1938, OUR GRANDMOTHER MARGARET DELIVERED OUR FATHER INTO THIS WORLD. HE WAS NOT AN EASY DELIVERY AND BOTH WERE NEARLY LOST DURING. I HAVE HEARD NUMEROUS THEORIES WHERE JAMES CAME FROM. ONE FROM PAST RELATIVES AND ONE EVEN NAMED FROM A PROMINENT BOXER OF THE TIME. THE DOCTOR WHO SAVED THEM BOTH WAS NAMED DR. GERALD HENCE HIS MIDDLE NAME WAS PICKED BY SISTER Z. THE RYAN PART CAME FROM A LITTLE ISLAND WE CALL THE MOTHERLAND. IRELAND

INTEGRITY

IN THE BIBLE IT REFERS TO INTEGRITY UNDER THE READING OF TITUS

“Show yourself in all respects to be a model of good works, and in your teaching show integrity, dignity, and sound speech that cannot be condemned, so that an opponent may be put to shame, having nothing evil to say about us.”

Integrity is mentioned some 40 times in the Bible, and a study of the several different words which are all translated into English using our word integrity shows that integrity refers to being upright in heart, honest in your actions, committed to doing right regardless of the cost. SOME WOULD CALL THIS TAKING THE HIGH ROAD.

THIS WAS OUR FATHER!

THE FOLLOWING ARE SOME OF THE MESSAGES THAT WE HAVE RECEIVED ABOUT OUR FATHER THIS PAST WEEK THAT MENTIONED THE CHARACTER, THE INTEGRITY OF A MAN THAT WE SO DEARLY LOVED AND WILL MISS THE REST OF OUR LIVES ON THIS PLANET

- HE WAS A GOOD MAN
- I'M SO HAPPY I HAVE MEMORIES OF YOUR FATHER, A VERY NICE MAN
- SORRY ABOUT YOUR POPS. HE HELPED MAKE LOCAL 633 WHAT IT IS TODAY
- SO SORRY, I ENJOYED LEARNING FROM YOUR DAD ABOUT HIS ARTWORK. SOME BEAUTIFUL WORK FROM AN ARTIST WITH A BIG PERSONALITY
- I WILL ALWAYS CHERISH HIS TWINKLING EYES AND KINDNESS.

SISTER STORY A RYAN TRAIT

- HE WAS A SPECIAL FRIEND FROM CHILDHOOD TO ADULT HOOD. HIS HARD WORK ATTITUDE WAS AN OUTSTANDING TRAIT.
- YOUR DAD TAUGHT ME SO MUCH WORKING WITH HIM FOR YEARS. A STAND-UP MAN. A MANS MAN. **THAT'S INTEGRITY**
- HE WAS A GREAT MAN THAT I HAD DEEP ADMIRATION FOR. I'VE OFTEN ASKED MYSELF "HOW WOULD JIMMY HANDLE THIS" ESPECIALLY WHEN DEALING WITH EMPLOYEES OF MINE. HAVING HIM AS A FOREMAN WAS AN INVALUABLE LEARNING EXPERIENCE. **THAT'S INTEGRITY**
- I HAVE A WONDERFUL FIREPLACE TO REMIND ME OF JIMS TALENT AND WORK ETHIC
- NOW I KNOW WHERE YOU GET YOUR GOOD LOOKS FROM-**READ AGAIN I THINK CHUCK WROTE THAT**
- **CONNIE** - I THINK THEY WERE GOOD THERAPY FOR EACH OTHER. YOUR DAD TAUGHT RUSS HOW TO DO ANTARSIA AND WOULD COME TO OUR CRAFT SHOWS WHEN IT WAS NEARBY. HE GAVE RUSS ONE OF THE BEST COMPLIMENTS HE COULD GET. YOUR DAD SAID "YOU KNOW YOU'RE A GOOD TEACHER WHEN THE STUDENT BECOMES BETTER THAN THE TEACHER.

THANK YOU, RUSS, FOR YOUR FRIENDSHIP YOU GAVE OUR DAD. HE SPOKE TO ME ABOUT IT OFTEN IN OUR PHONE CONVERSATIONS AND WAS PROUD OF YOUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN INTARSIA.

CONSTRUCTION

TODAY IS A GOOD DAY. I WOULD LIKE TO THINK OUR DAD IS BACK AT WORK WITH NO PAIN, WITH FULL VISION AND ON THE SAME JOB AS HIS BROTHERS BUD AND LARRY COVERING UP THEIR IRONWORK WITH CONCRETE. I CAN ONLY IMAGINE THAT ALL THREE OF THOSE RYAN BOYS ARE CREATING HAVOC ON GODS' CONSTRUCTION PROJECT IN THE HEAVENS.

OUR DAD WAS AN ARTIST NOT ONLY WITH HIS WOODWORKING SKILLS BUT IN CONCRETE AND MASONRY. HE LOVED HIS WORK. ALL YOU HAD TO DO WAS DRIVE AROUND THE TWIN CITIES WITH HIM AND HE WOULD TELL YOU ABOUT EVERY BUILDING HE WORKED ON. I WAS SO FORTUNATE TO HAVE WORKED ON SO MANY WITH HIM OVER THE YEARS SIDE BY SIDE. SOMETIMES HE WOULD FOLLOW A READY-MIX TRUCK JUST TO SEE WHAT WAS GOING ON. HE WAS PROTECTING HIS UNION BROTHERS AND SISTERS WORK. HE WAS A UNION MAN. AND PROUD OF IT. **THATS INTEGRITY** HE WORKED ALL OVER THE METRO AREA, THROUGHOUT MINNESOTA, WISCONSIN, MONTANA, HAWAII, AND EVEN CANADA.

DAD WAS A 55 YEAR MEMBER OF THE OPERATIVE PLASTERERS LOCAL 633 UNION JOINING ON OCTOBER 10, 1966. HE WOULD HAVE JOINED INTO THE UNION EARLIER BUT BACK IN THE DAY HE WAS ONLY ALLOWED TO GET ON WORK PERMITS BECAUSE OF THE SCANDANAVIAN CONTROLLED MINNEAPOLIS AND ITALIAN CONTROLLED ST PAUL LOCALS. NO IRISH ALLOWED.

WHEN AVAILABLE HE WOULD ALWAYS BE WILLING TO DO WHAT IT TOOK TO SUPPORT HIS UNION. IT WAS HIS OTHER FAMILY. HE SUPPORTED MANY PICKET LINES TO ENSURE THE WORKING CONDITIONS FOR OUR MEMBERS WAS UPHELD TO THE HIGHEST STANDARD. HE NEVER CROSSED A PICKET LINE AND RAISED OUR FAMILY TO FOLLOW THAT RULE ALSO. IT WAS SO IMPORTANT TO HIM. HE ONCE TOLD ME THAT AT A MEMBERSHIP MEETING MEMBERS WERE VOTING ON STARTING A PENSION FUND. MANY WERE AGAINST IT BECAUSE THEY WOULD RECEIVE SO LITTLE. HE SAID IT WASN'T ABOUT US NOW, BUT ABOUT OUR FUTURE GENERATIONS THAT WILL MAKE US ALL STRONGER. **THAT'S INTEGRITY**. OUR DAD SERVED FOR MANY YEARS PROUDLY ON LOCAL 633 EXECUTIVE BOARD THAT I WOULD FILL HIS SPOT YEARS LATER WHEN HE RETIRED. MY DAD AND I WOULD ATTEND MANY UNION MEETINGS OVER THE YEARS TOGETHER AND I TRULY HAVE CHERISHED OUR TIME TOGETHER. I REMEMBER HIM

TELLING ME IN MY YOUNGER DAYS ONCE AT A MEETING. HE SAID
“LOOK AROUND THE ROOM AND SEE ALL THE BROTHERS AND SISTERS
IN THE HALL, THEY ALL PUT IN A HONEST HARD DAY AT WORK AND
ASKED LITTLE IN RETURN BUT DECENT WORK CONDITIONS AND FAIR
PAY. THAT’S WHY WE ARE HERE. I NEVER FORGOT THAT. **THAT’S
INTEGRITY**

OUR CURRENT BUSINESS MANAGER OF LOCAL 633 DAVID SCHUTTA
WROTE IN DADS OBITUARY THE FOLLOWING.

ON BEHALF OF ALL PAST, CURRENT AND FUTURE MEMBERS OF
CEMENT MASONS LOCAL 633, WE THANK & HONOR JIM FOR BEING A
GREAT STEWARD OF OUR INDUSTRY, AND MAKING SURE THAT ALL
WORKING CONDITIONS WERE FOLLOWED, GIVING US ALL A GREATER
FUTURE. THANK YOU, JIM, FOR BEING A GREAT LEADER AND EVEN A
GREATER MAN. **THAT’S INTEGRITY**

MY DAD NEVER SPOKE DOWN OR YELLED AT ANYONE FOR THEIR
PERFORMANCE, EXCEPT MAYBE ME FOR SLACKING ON THE JOB.
UNLESS YOU MESSED WITH HIS CONCRETE OR HIS CREW AND THAT
WAS A BAD DECISION ON THEIR PART.

HIS SAYING WAS HARD WORK NEVER HURT ANYONE. DAD WAS A
TEACHER TO MANY OVER THE YEARS. HE WAS A TRUE LEADER THAT
SHOWED IT DAILY ON THE JOB. HE NEVER CARED WHAT YOU LOOKED
LIKE, WHERE YOU CAME FROM, JUST THAT YOU DID YOUR SHARE. DAD
WOULD NEVER TELL ANYONE TO DO SOMETHING HE WOULD’NT DO
HIMSELF. HE WAS USAULLY IN THE THICK OF THINGS. HE ALWAYS GAVE
100%. HE WAS THE HARDEST WORKING MAN I EVER WORKED WITH.
THAT’S INTEGRITY

THE JOKESTER

MY DAD GREW UP IN THE JORDAN AREA ATTENDING SCHOOL AND SOMEWHAT BEING INFLUENCED BY A GROUP OF BOYS WITH THE LAST NAME OF STANG. MY GODFATHER IS MICK STANG AND I HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK WITH HIM THIS WEEK FROM TENNESEE WHERE HE IS TAKING CARE OF HIS VERY SICK WIFE BJ. PLEASE PRAY FOR HER. HE WASN'T ABLE TO ATTEND BUT WE DO HAVE TOMMY STANG HERE REPRESENTING THE FAMILY. THANK YOU, TOM.

MICK TOLD ME MANY SHANANIGANS THAT THESE BOYS WOULD GET INTO BUT MOST I COULD NOT TELL HERE IN CHURCH. MICK ASSURED ME NOBODY EVER GOT HURT.

THE BOYS WOULD HANGOUT AT THE GAS STATION ALL THE TIME OR CRUISING THE STREETS OF JORDAN IN THEIR HIGH SCHOOL YEARS. THE LOCAL POLICE OFFICER WOULD HARASS THEM AND ACCUSE THEM OF ANY THING THAT HAPPENED AROUND TOWN. HARD TO BELIEVE IF YOU KNEW THESE ALTER BOYS. ONE TRICK THAT MICK TALKED ABOUT WAS THE TNT BOMBS AND THE CIGARETTE. WAY AHEAD OF MCGYVER TACTICS. THESE WERE NOT TODAY'S FIRECRACKERS BECAUSE THEY HAD A LITTLE BIT MORE POWER. THEY WOULD TAPE THE LIT CIGARETTE TO THE FIRECRACKER. IT WOULD TAKE 7 MINUTES FOR IT TO BURN DOWN AND BLOW UP. THEY WOULD PLACE THEM AT DIFFERENT PLACES AROUND TOWN AND THEN HURRY BACK TO THE GAS STATION WHERE THE COPS WOULD SEE THEM SITTING THINKING IT WAS NOT THEM THIS TIME.

ANOTHER ONE WAS DURING HOMECOMING THE SCHOOL WOULD HAVE A HUGE BON FIRE IN THE SAND PIT BUILT BY THE STUDENTS. ONE YEAR AFTER THEIR HARD WORK OF CONSTRUCTING IT THE SCHOOL GAVE THE SENIORS THE DAY OFF TO FINISH IT. THE BOYS WHO WERE JUNIORS WERE NOT HAPPY THAT THEY STILL HAD TO ATTEND

SCHOOL. SO IN RETALIATION THEY SNUCK UP THERE AND LIT THE BONFIRE THE NIGHT BEFORE AND RAN BACK TO THEIR SAFE PLACE THE GAS STATION.

ANOTHER ONE WAS ABOUT THESE ROTTEN GOOSE EGGS THAT WOULD COME FROM ABOVE BUILDINGS IN TOWN MYSTERIOUSLY LANDING ON TOP OF THE LOCAL POLICE CAR. AGAIN, IT WAS BACK TO THE SAFE SPOT. MAYBE NOT INTEGRITY BUT CHARACTER

IN CLOSING

MY DAD WAS MANY THINGS TO ME, HE WAS MY BOSS, MY TEACHER, A FATHER, A FRIEND, SOMEONE I WOULD CALL SOMETIMES DAILY TO RUN QUESTIONS ABOUT WORK, RAISING A FAMILY, POLITICS, OUR SPORTS TEAMS, BUT MOSTLY HE WAS MY DAD, I WILL MISS HIM TERRIBLY.

IT GIVES US ALL COMFORT THAT HE IS BACK AT THE TABLE WITH HIS PARENTS FRANK AND MARGERET AND ALL HIS SISTERS AND BROTHERS. THEY NOW HAVE JIMMY HOME. JUST IMAGINE THAT SCENE.

MY DAUGHTER DEBBIE GAVE ME A CARD THE OTHER NIGHT IN WHICH SHE WROTE THAT I WOULD LIKE TO SHARE WITH EVERYONE THAT IS IN PAIN IN THIS GREAT LOSS, OF THIS GREAT IRISHMAN, HUSBAND, FATHER, PAPA.

“LIFE AND DEATH ARE’NT MERE MOMENTS IN TIME, THEY ARE NOT THINGS WE MOVE ON FROM, BUT RATHER WE MOVE FORWARD WITH. KEEP PAPA A PRESENT TIME PERSON IN YOUR LIFE, EVEN THOUGH HE IS NOT PHYSICALLY HERE.

I HOPE YOU FIND COMFORT IN YOUR YEARS OF LOVE AND MEMORIES.”
I HOPE ALL OF YOU CAN FIND THAT COMFORT.

I WILL MISS THOSE PHONE CONVERSATIONS, I WILL MISS MY FRIEND, I
WILL MISS MY DAD

I LOVE YOU DAD.

THANK YOU!