

JESSCO COWLEY NIXON'S FUNERAL ADDRESS

By GRACE NIXON STEWART - THURSDAY, JULY 7, 1983

It is a privelege to speak at the services of our beloved brother, Jessco. If only it were possible for me to give adequately the feelings in my heart for this noble man.

Being a number of years their senior, it was my responsibility to look after Ezra and Jessco. Our beautiful sister, Olive, who took care of our home, saw that I had sufficient milk in Jessco's bottle, and other needs -and, before we left for the store, to report to mother.

The wicker baby carriage in which Jessco rode, Ezra walking beside it, and, as always, trying to help, I pushing the buggy was a familiar picture to the Huntington towns folk.

At times, mother would allow us to visit friends. Always, we were given a time limit, then returned for mother to again check on Jessco's needs.

At an early age, Jessco had a rare appreciation of beauty. When he was in the second grade, our efficient sister, Nina, was his teacher. Of this, he was so proud. Nina promoted him to the "high" third grade. However, in the autumn, he went into the low third grade. Nina asked why he chose to do this. He replied, "Because the teacher is more beautiful." Nina took care of his being placed in his proper class.

This appreciation of beauty abided with him through all his years.

Our precious brother, St. Clair, was especially protective of his two younger brothers.

At Provo High School, Jessco met the girl of his dreams, Mildred Jones. She was the only romantic Love of his life.

Jessco and Mildred lived in their beautiful home in Arlington, Virginia for thirty years. Several in this audience have been recipients of their gracious hospitality.

Jessco had a deep love for his parents, brothers and sisters, as did we all for each other. Symbolic of Jessco's love for each of our families was thoughtfully demonstrated at the approach of our brother, Willie's, eightieth Birthday. Jessco said, "Something important should be done in recognition of Willie's outstanding achievements." So, he and Mildred arranged all, notified the brothers and sisters, relatives, and close friends of the date and place, and we were all there. It was an event ever to be cherished in memory.

Jessco never permitted himself to become discouraged. This took courage, but courage he had. He recognized that discouragement diminishes ones resolves and leaves one vulnerable for Satan's cunning devices. He agreed with William James, the noted Harvard Psychologist, who said, in essence, "The mind is like a sponge. It absorbs what it holds. If we hold in our minds, and hearts, great ideas of faith and enthusiasm, our entire personalities are changed accordingly. If we hold negative thoughts, we develop negative minds. If we think depraved thoughts, we develop depraved minds. If we think thoughts of discouragement, we develop easily discouraged minds. However, if we think lofty thoughts, we develop inspiring minds; hence, we see that the thoughts we permit in our minds are welded from change of habit."

Jessco seemed to possess mental clippers that instantly eliminated negative thoughts.

Jessco was honest. He had integrity. We could always depend on his doing what he said he would do. He was very generous. He delighted in helping others, but never wanted his helpfulness known. He followed our Lord's admonition, "Give in secret".

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Suzanne, her father's second love, continued in his tradition. In High School, she received no grade lower than "A"! She was Valedictorian at her Graduation. I recall seeing a newspaper picture with President Nixon's arm around Suzanne. The caption read, "Suzanne is one of the brighter Nixons."

Ted and Suzanne graduated from the Brigham Young University. Ted majored in Engineering and Suzanne in Foods and Nutrition. They both received the coveted Phi Kappa Phi honor.

Jessco was always deeply religious. He held several positions of heavy responsibility in the church. His great desire for his posterity was that they keep our Heavenly Father's commandments, be faithful active members of our church, and maintain the honorable name he had given them.

Ted, Suzanne, and their children have brought Mildred and Jessco boundless happiness. The joy of watching their developmental process as they prepare for their chosen professions. Their constant consideration and thoughtfulness have enhanced the richness of their lives. How grateful we are that families are eternal.

Jessco had so many notable qualities. We have enumerated but a few.

We will miss his gentle smile, his soft chuckle, his love and concern for us. We will never forget him. His life will be our inspiration.

His last brief moments before he passed from this life were in the arms of his High School Sweetheart, with whom it was as easy to keep in love as to fall in love.

We are grateful that death so softly succeeded life in him, he did not dream of Heaven and he was there. He has now joined others who loved and love him.

You will now not walk alone, Mildred, dear.
You will feel his presence in the silken dusk,
As you hear old songs you both loved
As you walk on moonlight evenings and recall your years together.

In closing, may I recall thoughts of the Great Exemplar.

Two Thousand Years ago there lived, and died, a man who saw the unseen,
who looked at us and saw us clearly, all that we are, and all that we could be,
and cared enough to die on a lonely hill that we might some day understand.

He lived a simple life, said the things He really thought, and nothing
that He did not mean.

He did not cover Himself with words and worldly ways, but drew from the
depths of Him, and was not ashamed to show all that He was.

That we, and our families, may be worthy of true happiness, grateful
for the beauty of our world, and live as our Lord and Savior would have us
live, is my prayer, in the Sacred Name of Our Lord, Jesus Christ,

Amen.