

Funeral for Scott Rodke

Welcoming Comments

Scripture

Isaiah 40:28-31 King James Version (KJV)

28 Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding.

29 He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength.

30 Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall:

31 But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

Prayer

Song

Bridge over Troubled Water - Simon and Garfunkel

When you're weary
Feeling small
When tears are in your eyes
I will dry them all
I'm on your side
When times get rough
And friends just can't be found

Like a bridge over troubled water
I will lay me down
Like a bridge over troubled water
I will lay me down

When you're down and out
When you're on the street
When evening falls so hard
I will comfort you
I'll take your part

When darkness comes
And pain is all around

Like a bridge over troubled water
I will lay me down
Like a bridge over troubled water
I will lay me down

Sail on silver girl
Sail on by
Your time has come to shine
All your dreams are on their way
See how they shine
If you need a friend
I'm sailing right behind

Like a bridge over troubled water
I will ease your mind
Like a bridge over troubled water
I will ease your mind

Obituary - Thanh Rodke

On the morning of Wednesday, December 3, 2014, Scott Patrick Rodke passed away peacefully of natural causes at his home in Temple, Texas. Scott realized his dream of reaching 80 years of age on November 4. He was blessed by over 70 family and friends at a birthday party celebrating the event.

He was born in the town of Paoli, Oklahoma, in 1934. He was the fourth of five sons born to Anna Frances Scott Rodke and David Lawrence Rodke. He was a proud infantryman and retired from the United States Army as Command Sergeant Major in 1977 after almost 24 years of service, including four tours in Vietnam. Several of his commanders noted that he was the finest soldier they had ever known. His proudest moment was his promotion to Command Sergeant Major and appointment to Commandant of the NCO Academy at Fort Hood. He requested that his headstone be inscribed with, "INFANTRYMAN - HE GAVE A DAMN."

Scott was an adored father, proud businessman, skilled orator, compassionate teacher, respected counsellor, generous friend, and loyal patriot. His greatest joy was his family. He wrote that his greatest emotional pain was leaving his children to return to combat in Vietnam. A man of unparalleled integrity and character, his motto was, "Practice what you preach and NEVER GIVE UP!"

Scott earned two college degrees with honors after his military retirement. He loved to play Monopoly and always wanted to learn to fly a helicopter. He wished to have a view of Mount Rushmore from his front porch. Fond of travel, he especially loved to cruise with family. Scott

was proud of his broad shoulders and posture, but wished his waist was ten inches smaller. He loved the smell of vanilla and the taste of cinnamon. He was quite the tennis player when young, and loved to watch all forms of auto racing later in life.

Scott was preceded in death by: his parents; brothers, David Sterling, Larry Russell, Perry Colbert, and twin Phillip Michael; and one grandson.

Scott is survived by his beloved wife of 41 years, Hanh Le' Rodke, whom he married on March 3, 1972; children, Lee Ann Everson, David Vernon Rodke, Joseph Patrick Rodke, Sharon Lynn Bolling, Duy Quy Le', Thanh Le' Rodke, and Lori Hanh Rodke; 16 grandchildren; and 18 great-grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be sent to the Friends of Vinh Son Montagnard Orphanage at friendsofvs.org and the Paralyzed Veterans of America at pva.org.

Personal Remarks - Thanh Rodke

Song

Amazing Grace

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

T'was Grace that taught my heart to fear.
And Grace, my fears relieved.
How precious did that Grace appear
The hour I first believed.

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 praise
Than when we've first begun.

Message - Dan Mappus

Psalm 139:5 New International Version (NIV)

5 Thou hast beset me behind and before, and laid thine hand upon me.

Matthew 8:5-10, 13

5 When Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to him, asking for help. 6 “Lord,” he said, “my servant lies at home paralyzed, suffering terribly.”

7 Jesus said to him, “Shall I come and heal him?”

8 The centurion replied, “Lord, I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. But just say the word, and my servant will be healed. 9 For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, ‘Go,’ and he goes; and that one, ‘Come,’ and he comes. I say to my servant, ‘Do this,’ and he does it.”

10 When Jesus heard this, he was amazed and said to those following him, “Truly I tell you, I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith.

13 Then Jesus said to the centurion, “Go! Let it be done just as you believed it would.” And his servant was healed at that moment.

Chain of Command

The eighth chapter of Matthew contains a short narrative from the ministry of Jesus that is impossible to overlook or forget. It tells of an interaction between Jesus and a military man. The occasion was the serious illness of the Roman officer's beloved servant. The officer asks Jesus to heal his servant, and from that comes an amazing reaction from Jesus. "I have not seen this kind of faith in all Israel."

He was a Roman Centurion, He was deployed to one of the most dangerous and difficult regions in the empire. Palestine was dangerous then and it is dangerous now. Filled with passionate, excited people, it could erupt into violence and chaos at the slightest provocation. His long experience in war and peace had perfectly prepared him for his present duty.

The centurion was the backbone of the Roman army and was generally considered the highest rank or appointment that was made to soldiers who came up through the enlisted ranks. Their rise to command was somewhat long and often grueling, consisting of many years of proving themselves to be men of exceptional talent, bravery, honor, integrity, and leadership. It was very much like the position and authority of my friend, Command Sergeant Major Scott Rodke.

When the centurion in Matthew's gospel told Jesus that he was “a man under authority”, he revealed the basic dynamic of his military career. He clearly understood authority because he answered to his superiors, and his personal authority and ability to command troops was based on that chain of command. Certainly men followed his orders out of love and respect for him as a leader, but ultimately they followed him even if they did not like the way he barked commands because they

knew he carried the full weight of Roman law and the authority it gave him because he was THE CENTURION.

Here is the thing that amazed Jesus when he met and spoke with this man. He told Jesus how his authority worked. "I tell men to go there and they go." Unspoken is the profound weight of that authority which often meant that he sent men into harm's way and even death. "I tell men to do something and they do it without question"

Now here is the testimony and indeed, the sermon of a career leader of men. He tells Jesus that (understanding how commands works) Jesus need not come to his house to heal his beloved servant, he only has to command it and it will be done. No questions asked, no rituals performed, it will absolutely be accomplished if Jesus commands it to be so.

Jesus is astonished, and gives this gentile roman commander the highest compliment He ever gave any man other than John the Baptist. "I have not seen this kind of faith in all Israel."

What the centurion was saying to Jesus was essentially – I understand the chain of command and I know that you have ultimate power and authority in your words to change heaven and earth and to heal my servant. It was, of course granted to him just as he requested.

Why Jesus marveled was because here standing before him was an uncomplicated man. A man like Scott that tended to see things in stark black and white. A man that understood the simple truth that all authority in heaven and earth was at Jesus' command.

Now to the application of this beautiful little story of an encounter 2000 years ago – and now into the present. When I first met Scott Rodke last Christmas at the family Christmas gathering, and on into the many visits and long conversations I had with him during his hospitalizations and at home – I came to believe that there sitting in the chair or laying in his sick bed – struggling to restrain himself from barking orders at lowly nurses and orderlies – there in that bed is the Centurion. Here is an uncomplicated man with a powerful ethic and patriotic zeal that understood what it was to command men, and to expect them to carry out orders without delay or questions. Here was a man who understood exactly how things operated in God's great Kingdom. His very simple outlook on life, duty, and power is the same that Jesus commends in the Centurion two Millennia ago.

In his personal recollections, left for the benefit of family and friends, he answers many very personal questions about all aspects of his relationships. He is asked at one point:

Name a piece of music that makes you sentimental – His answer – AMAZING GRACE

This music reminds you of – THE LOVE OF GOD AND THAT JESUS DIED FOR OUR SALVATION

This, my friends is a simple but profound profession of faith. Not a religious thing – not wrapped in the mantle of denominational creeds and liturgical practices – a simple statement of his faith in the Savior.

Committal

Forasmuch as Almighty God hath taken unto Himself the soul of our brother Scott Rodke, we therefore commit his (or, her) body to the grave, earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust; looking for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come, through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Benediction

Hebrews 13:20-21 King James Version (KJV)

20 Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant,

21 Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Full Military Honors

Army Honor Guard Salute

Firing of three volleys

Presentation of arms

TAPS

Folding and Presentation of Flag to Next of Kin

Final Salute