



Jack Scoggins, Sr.

January 27, 2021

For the past 70 years, Jack Scoggins, Sr. would depart his house at 4:40am to begin his workday. On January 27, 2021, in McAllen, Texas, at age 87, Jack departed at 4:40am yet again: this time into the arms of his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Jack H. Scoggins, Sr. was born on November 24th, 1933 in Anacoco, Louisiana to George Elzy and Savannah Addison Scoggins. George was a farmer by trade, and in 1937 he and Savannah moved Jack and his elder siblings, Verla, Maxine, and Kenneth to the Rio Grande Valley. Jack took to his father's trade quickly and by the time he reached high school at Harlingen High, Jack had already received the Grand Champion prize for the steer he raised for the Rio Grande Valley Livestock Show and Rodeo. But more on this later.

Jack graduated from Harlingen High School at the age of 16, in 1950. If you asked him how he accomplished such a feat, he might say, "well it helps when your sister is your teacher." Those of us who knew him, know better. At the ripe old age of 17, Jack started farming with his father and brother. And at 19, Jack was struck by a bolt of lightning, which, thankfully, came in the form of Ernestine ("Tina") Powell and from which he never recovered. Jack and Tina were wed on Easter Sunday, April 18, 1954 prior to Sunday services at the First United Methodist Church of Harlingen. On March 3, 1955 Jack and Tina were blessed with their only son, Jack's namesake, and future business partner, Jack Henry Scoggins, Jr. ("Jackie"), and one year and 6 days later, on

March 9, 1956, a daughter, Jana Beth (Scoggins) Eidson was born. Jack and Tina made their home and raised their family in Harlingen, with Jack creating a partnership to farm, and eventually feed cattle, with his brother Kenneth Scoggins called Scoggins Bros., Inc.

"Blessed is the person who is too busy to worry in the daytime and too tired to worry at night."

-From Jack Scoggins, Sr. Pocket Notebook

Jack was a simple man, but not in a pejorative sense. His focus was just narrow. However, simultaneously, this narrow focus encompassed all things he set about doing in life. Permeating all these elements was (and is) his faith in Jesus Christ. His life was devoted to being a humble servant. To serve God. To serve his family. And to serve his work. Looking back the threads of humble service are everywhere we look. When asked about approaching uncertainty he appended nearly every statement with, "God willing." And he meant it. This man wanted the will of his Father over everything. He was a man of strong convictions that he carried close to his heart, literally and figuratively. He was known for carrying a small calendar/notebook in his front shirt pocket filled with quotes, verses, and cattle and grain prices dating back to the 80's. When a quiet moment would present itself, he would open up his notebook and share with you, his latest treasured quote.

When troubled waters rose, he was assuaged with it being God's will and everything working for the good of those being called unto HIS purpose (Romans 8:28). The lens through which he as an individual may have viewed this world and his place and purpose in it, was always secondary to living a life as God has commanded. When asked what the most important commandment is Jesus said, "The most important is . . . you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: you shall love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these." Mark 12: 29-31
ESV

And so, faithfully and simply, Jack went about pursuing this purpose. After

Jack Jr. and Jana Beth had left for their respective colleges, Jack took a risk. With the support of his brother Kenneth, and after taking on a partner (who, along with his wife Wanda, would become life-long dear friends to Tina and Jack) in Lou Waters, Starr Feedyards, Inc. was born in 1974. From a humble beginning, Starr Feedyards would grow to become one of the largest cattle feedyards in the region and Jack's expertise would be sought out to serve on various industry boards of directors, including the Texas Cattle Feeder's Association. And the feedyard, as it is called, became an adventure and life-lesson haven for Jack's family. With Tina's desire to live in town, Jack logged over 1.6 million miles driving the 50 miles to and from the feedyard every day. Jack always looked forward to going to work. He created a litmus test for retirement: which was, whether he drove to work under the speed limit three days in a row. His foot never let up on the accelerator.

"You cannot control the length of your life, but you can control its depth." -

"A good man leaves an inheritance to his children's children." Prov. 13:22

-From Jack Scoggins, Sr. Pocket Notebook

The depth of Jack's life was the constant pursuit of the care for his family both at home and at Starr Feedyards. Whether it was providing a home for employees at the feedyard so they could have every opportunity to grow their young families and provide opportunities the generation before could not have grasped or keeping the promise he made to his own parents to gather his extended family together annually for the Scoggins Family Reunion, Jack knew the importance of family. Aside from his faith, his family, including his family at "the yard," was his greatest treasure. He cultivated deep, lasting relationships with his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. When each of his grandchildren began their time in college, every month, he sent them a note of encouragement, telling them how proud he was of them, as well as a check for what he lovingly referred to as "gas money".

"One good reason for doing the right thing today, is tomorrow." -

"God doesn't give you anything you can't handle, if you ask for His help." -

"Criticism of others is self-exalting"

-From Jack Scoggins, Sr. Pocket Notebook

A family's internal dynamics are inherited to a degree. Jack not only had high expectations for himself, but also for how the members of his family were to treat one another. While Jack hardly ever missed a detail, his default approach was never to critique. He was in constant pursuit of understanding, to walk in other's shoes prior to ever offering a corrective word. When the instruction came, make no mistake, it was direct, but never would you walk away from the conversation feeling unloved. The dynamic this type of "relational genius" effected was not of fear

of correction or daunting expectation, but an unyielding pursuit to repay the love with your best. Because that is what Jack gave you daily. His best.

"We should always remember how precious our time is here on earth, and to enjoy and live life

the best we can every day." -

"Don't complain about thorns among the roses, be grateful for roses among the thorns." -

"My desire is to pass from this world in a way that brings glory to God." -

"Because Christ lived death is not tragedy but triumph!!!"

-From Jack Scoggins, Sr. Pocket Notebook

Jack was many things to many people. To Tina (our Mimi), Jack was a loving and faithful husband for every one of their 63 years of marriage. When Tina passed in February of 2018, faithfully, a piece of Jack went with her. To his only son, Jackie, Jack was a mentor and a friend, a business partner and confidant. Jack's pride in leaving his legacy in the capable hands of his son and his son's son, Dillon, was unbounded. To his only daughter, Jana Beth, Jack was a protector, a dear friend, and wise guide who delighted in the family she and her husband Jim have built. To his grandchildren, Jack (Papu) is the measure by which we all will challenge ourselves; fervently hoping that what

we do and say on this earth will honor him; and thanking God for all of our remaining days, that he was ours.

Jack is survived by his two children: Jackie Scoggins and his wife Melodye, of McAllen and Jana Beth and her husband Jim of Dallas, six grandchildren: Somer Neuhaus (Kevin), Jacqueline Scoggins, Taylor Wood (Ryan), Dillon Scoggins, Grant Eidson, and Savannah Near (Andrew), seven great-grandchildren: Quinten, Joaquin, and Jake East, Skipper and Ann Vacek, Weston and Peyton Neuhaus, and Grace Wood, employees, past and present, of Starr Feedyards, Inc., and countless life-long friends in Harlingen and McAllen. Jack was predeceased by his wife

Tina Scoggins, siblings: Verla Mynier, Kenneth Scoggins, and Maxine Rushing.

Jack loved the Rio Grande Valley, from bay fishing at South Padre Island to all manner of hunting the land had to offer. He was a member of Bible Study Fellowship, which he faithfully attended on Monday nights for the past 9 years. He also loved serving in the First United Methodist Church of McAllen, as a former board member and a Sunday Service greeter, a committed servant of the congregation. The family wishes to thank Jack's caregivers: Sonia Guillen, Sandra Lopez, Lilliana Carranza, and Imelda Palomo for their help these past few months. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations would be made to the First United Methodist Church - Jack H.

Scoggins, Sr. Memorial. Following a private family burial, a memorial service will be held at the First United Methodist Church of McAllen on a date to be determined.

Tribute Wall



“ *Jack Scoggins, Sr.*

October 08, 2023 at 09:43 PM



“ *Jack Scoggins, Sr.*

November 29, 2022 at 06:40 AM