

Russell Sterling Pitts



42, a resident of Lincoln, Arkansas, passed away January 19, 2007, at his farm near Lincoln. He was born December 10, 1964 at Fayetteville, Arkansas, the son of Roger and Mary Alice Mileur Pitts.

Russell was a respected husband, father, brother, uncle, son and friend. He was a tremendous athlete in highschool and was a member of the Arkansas Tech University football team. He completed his degree in Agribusiness at the University of Arkansas .

He spent his life coaching kids in football, basketball, and baseball. Hundreds of kids loved and respected "Coach Russell". He volunteered hundreds of hours of his time to improve the football and baseball fields

at Lincoln.

Russell was an avid farmer and sportsman. He lived and breathed Lincoln Wolves and Arkansas Razorbacks. He was a member of the Washington County Farm Bureau, and a member of the Central United Methodist Church in Lincoln.

Survivors include his wife, Guatha Longwith Pitts of the home; three sons, Seth, Connor and Alec Pitts all of the home; his parents Roger and Mary Alice Pitts of Lincoln, Arkansas; two sisters, Sarah Simmons of Prairie Grove, Arkansas, and Alicia Ezell of Atlanta, Georgia.



APPRECIATION

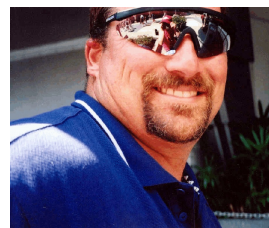
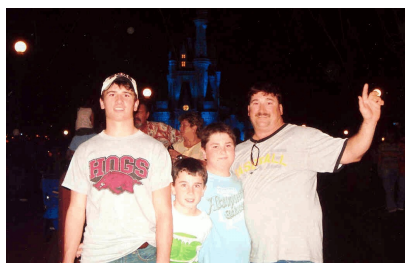
On behalf of the Pitts family, we wish to express their gratitude for your many acts of kindness, and for your attendance at the funeral service.

**Luginbuel Funeral Home
Prairie Grove, Arkansas**

online guest book, visit www.luginbuel.com



Russell Pitts
December 10, 1964
January 19, 2007



CELEBRATING THE LIFE & MEMORY OF

Russell Sterling Pitts

DATE, TIME & PLACE OF SERVICE

Monday, January 22, 2007 - 10:00 A.M.
Pitts Farm - Lincoln, Arkansas

ORDER OF SERVICE

Prelude Music

"When I Get Where I'm Going"

Brad Paisley

Eulogy

Shannon Burks

Remarks

Seth Pitts

Obituary

Jim Ayers

"The Lord's Prayer"

Maurice Cluck

Words of Comfort & Victory

Andy Newbill

Pastor - Central United Methodist Church - Lincoln, Arkansas

Closing Prayer

"Green Green Grass of Home"

Merle Haggard

GRAVE SIDE SERVICES WILL NOT BE HELD AT THE CEMETERY

FINAL RESTING PLACE

Sugar Hill Cemetery - Pitts Farm - Lincoln, Arkansas

PALLBEARERS

Bryan Freeman - Lynn Thomas - Jim Ayers - Shannon Burks - Richie Burks
John Wilhite - Jay Pitts - Jim Thurman - Mike Guthrie - Pat Summers
Curtis Griscom - Jason Moorman - Coby Hill - Mike Beaumont
Troy Myers - Darren Hoops - Randall Stickler - Darren Wilhite

MEMORIALS

Russell Pitts Memorial Scholarship for his three sons in care of any Arvest Bank. The account number will be posted Monday at www.Luginbuel.com



Words of Comfort by Reverend Andy Newbill

"...I am come that you might have life, and that you might have it more abundantly." John 10:10

God bless you.

centralumc-lincoln@cox.net

I wait for the Lord, my soul doth wait, and in his word do I hope. Psalm 130:5

Death has come to Russell suddenly and as a thief. It was not looked for, nor was it expected. Not that death is ever easy or can ever be welcome, but coming like this – so quickly and so suddenly as to take us unaware – it brings with its pain an added dimension of shock and disbelief.

We cannot really accept the fact that Russell who so short a while ago was with us fully, sharing your life as you shared his, is now gone. It is hard to believe that Russell whose life was so full and so free could now be ended. How can we make our peace with the fact of death, coming as it does in the midst of our hopes still being hoped and our dreams still being dreamed?

Death will come – we know this – and while we are never fully prepared for it, we live with the reality of death as an ever-present fact of life. We have been told that a man begins to die the moment he is born. And so death is not the question of life. God has not promised man that he will not die.

The question is not, “Shall we die?” or “How shall we die?” or “When shall we die?” or “Where?” but rather, “How shall we live?”

Life itself is the great question, and how we live it is ever before us.

To this question Russell has given his answer. You have known him and loved him and shared his life with him. He has lived fully and completely and well. Life was for him – as it is for all of us – hard at times, and difficult. The questions of life are many and varied, and dealing with them is not always easy. We succeed and we fail; we win a victory and we lose. But still we keep trying. With love and joy, mingled with grief and sorrow, we continue on our journey as best we are able.

So, too, has Russell lived – as a man among men? Standing straight and tall, he has demonstrated that man is a noble creation – more than just an intricate design of nerves and sinews.

Loving and being loved, sharing and serving, working and planning and

hoping and dreaming, he lived his life with us. And he has won his battles and won his victories. Our tears attest to that.

Our lives have met and they have touched. The emptiness we feel at his departure is witness to this.

And what more can we ask? So much more can we desire, and this desire will always move men to fight the great battles of life. But these desires are of time, they are not of quality. A life rich and well lived is its own reward – a great victory unto itself, its own fulfillment.

Shall we seek not to die? No, this cannot be our goal! Will life have more meaning and purpose if we can control, how we die and when and where? No, for it is not the ending of life that gives that life its meaning and purpose. It is in the living of life that we must seek its purpose. It is in the living of life that even death finds its meaning. So it has been with Russell.

When Andrew, one of the apostles, was about to die a martyr's death nailed on the cross, he spoke words of comfort to those who were gathered at the place of his crucifixion and who were crying out against such punishment. He told them, while his hands and feet were bound to the cross, that even though his body was now held by death yet he was free in spirit, “for so it is appointed to depart out of the body and to be present with the Lord.”

And turning to the man that had ordered his death, Andrew spoke again of his spirit thriving free in the Lord, and he loudly affirmed that “he whom the Lord sets free cannot be bound, even by death, but is loosed by Jesus who himself was bound in death and yet lives free.”

Witnessing his faith that while his body might die hanging upon the cross, his spirit would live by the grace of God, the blessed Andrew died while all who were present wept and lamented at their parting from him.

Such faith as this does not, of course, make death any easier. But neither should the “how” of the death make the loss any more real. Death in taking that which is most valuable – life – does its worst at any time and in any place.

So we will grieve at the coming of death, but we will grieve that life is gone. We will grieve that life is taken and that Russell is no longer with us. In so doing, however, we will be focusing on life and living – not on death.

The great question of life will banish the questions of death, and we will move away from asking in this sad hour, “How shall a man die?” to “How shall a man live?” To this question let us give our answer in faith, as the

Christ who lived for us and died for us has given us his answer.

I would like to read to you from Romans.

8:35 Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love? Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or are hungry or cold or in danger or threatened with death? 36 (Even the Scriptures say, "For your sake we are killed every day; we are being slaughtered like sheep." **37** No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us. **38** And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from his love. Death can't, and life can't. The angels can't, and the demons can't. Our fears for today, our worries about tomorrow, and even the powers of hell can't keep God's love away. **39** Whether we are high above the sky or in the deepest ocean, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Please bow your heads.

Our Father, we realize that all of life must be lived in the shadow of eternity. We thank you for the opportunities that come to us each day to experience your love and to share it with one another. Forgive us for our failures, and help us to use these days of preparation wisely. Comfort us with your presence and with the certainty of the hope, which you have given us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen