

The second reading is a reading from the New Testament I had sent to Patrick; he requested I read it here today:

It comes from the Book of Matthew, Chapter 10, verses 28-32:

"Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. And even the hairs of your head are all counted. So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows."

MEMORIAL TO A FRIEND- August 17, 2007

My name is John Lajoie and I am the Immediate Past President of the Licensed Private Detectives Association of Massachusetts (LPDAM). I was the 15th President and Patrick Digby was our 6th President- 10 years apart almost to the day. He and I were best friends. The LPDAM Past Presidents who were able to attend this memorial are present along with many members. I am honored to be representing the association that Patrick loved and helped to build. He was there from the beginning. I want to also acknowledge the United States Coast Guard, the Manchester Police Department, the United States Army, the National Association of Legal Investigators, the American Legion, and all family and friends who shared time with and supported Patrick and his family over the many good years and the last few years. Thank you all for coming. It's certainly obvious to me Patrick Digby was loved and greatly admired.

In June, Patrick wrote to me and said: "The company, the stories and the togetherness I will remember when I look for

comfort during my not so fun days. My best times as a PI were with you guys- work hard, play hard. We sure did play hard and had some fun times; so much so that we have so many great memories."

The great hammerhead shark scare at an investigative seminar in Naples, FL in 1995 was one such memory. Wow, what a close call! Pat, me, and Brian Schofield- all 3 of us running like banshee's in 5 ½ feet of ocean thinking we could outrace a shark. Pat said nobody would believe it really happened- except for that lifeguard who screamed at us for skimming sand dollars and bringing that shark to his beach. But we escaped. Patrick, cool as a Canadian cucumber frozen with fear, let that 8 foot great hammerhead swim right in front of him after I yelled "SHARK." Thank God I was facing the horizon and saw that thing coming at us at full speed. Never was I so scared. My heart was pounding after we ran in. First me, then Brian, then Pat- falling on the sand on top of one another, all of us panting like the coyote after another losing battle chasing the roadrunner. After Pat caught his breath he kept repeating, "I'll never skip a seminar again!" "I'll never skip a seminar again!" "I'll never skip a seminar again!" "I'll never skip a seminar again!" A true story.

Another memory is the surveillance Pat and I did on Cape Cod where after 2 days of seeing nothing at all Patrick videotaped a "Suspicious Pig on Cooke's Brook Beach." Don't believe it? Here's the picture to prove it (hold up). We sent the video to the client! We had a lot of laughs on that one.

But the one that captures Patrick's true essence is when he came into work at Lajoie Investigations. Like clock work, he would always come through the office door smiling. Someone would always ask "how ya doing Pat?" Patrick always answered.... "BEAUUUTIFUL!" Now this would go on day in and day out- "how ya doing Pat?" "BEAUUUTIFUL!" (REPEAT A

FEW TIMES) So one morning I said to him, "can't you say something else?" Next day he walks through the door. Someone says, "How ya doing?" Patrick says...**BEAUUU**TIOUS!**** Then Patrick yells, "Hey John.. Did you here that?" I come out rolling my eyes and he's chuckling at me with that wide-brimmed smile of his. What do you think he was trying to tell me? I got the message. It was truly Beauuutiful! Vintage Patrick.

In an April 2007 email to me, Pat made some LPDAM past presidential comments writing: "Congrats on being a Past President now- the best position to be in. Your hard work is done and I'm sure it was well appreciated" adding, "even if some didn't tell you so." Can there be any doubt Pat was an LPDAM President? I think not!

As Patrick normally joked, he also joked about his own mortality. But he said something that will stick with me for a long, long time. He said, "John, I won't make it much longer. My legs won't work and my body is just going to shut down." We both smiled, you know- the forced kind, and he started to chuckle a bit, me, of course, incredulous to what he had just said. Ten months later, here we are. It has hit me hard..... I still can't believe he is gone.

But he doesn't have to be! You see, there are little bits and pieces of Patrick Digby in me. And there are little bits and pieces of Patrick Digby in you too.

I was sitting alone with Patrick just a few months ago and he was talking about courage; about how he wanted his friends and family to see him stand up to ALS with courage and dignity. Talk about a courageous battle. And what a lesson he taught us all- a lesson in courage, dignity, tenacity and determination. Not unlike how he lived his life each and every day. Digger was a loyal friend, trusted confidant,

tireless worker, a great family man; just an all around good human being. His selfless energy on behalf of friends and colleagues, and especially the LPDAM and the US Coast Guard, is legendary. There are not many people like Patrick who have graced this Earth; if there were, it would surely be a much happier and less selfish world. He was special.

And each time he taught us, his wisdom was shared. Patrick's great gift to us all was to impart his wisdom, knowledge and experiences of a productive, successful, and wonderful 50 years. He shared his life with all of us. And he gave of himself with no expectation of return favor. He was a Christian through and through- forgiveness and compassion in everything that he did. He taught us that although life is short, the most important part of life is the people in it. I will be grateful for his teachings for ten lifetimes.

There are only a handful of people who come into your world and touch your life in a dramatic fashion. Some of the people are just flickers of light, while others are consistent glows. For me, Patrick was a shining star. He was a best friend for close to 17 years. He has left his footprint on my heart; a footprint on all of us. And I *do not* intend to let the footprint fade. We worked together from 1994 to 1998. He shared his deepest feelings and emotions with me right up until I last left him on July 28th. He taught me much about honor, integrity, and character. And through all of it, Patrick Digby NEVER, EVER said a bad word about anyone. Yes indeed, we learned much from him.

And so there are bits and pieces of Patrick T. Digby in me and in you- today, tomorrow, and forever. But it's not enough that we have them within us; it's what we do with them that really matters. So pass them on so that he touches the lives of people who will never enjoy the pleasure of having met him. And that is the best legacy to his memory, the purest

memorial to his life, and, without question, the highest honor you can give to Patrick and his family. And to Brenda, Caroline, Kevin, and Joe, I can't recall who said this but "When one of your loved ones goes out of your life, you think of what he might have done with a few more years, and you wonder what you are going to do with the rest of yours. Then one day, because there is a world to be lived in, you find yourself a part of it again, trying to accomplish something-something that he did not have time enough to do. And, perhaps, that is the reason for it all. I hope so."

Henry Scott Holland penned what Patrick wanted all of us to do: "Laugh as we always laughed at the little jokes we enjoyed together. Play, smile, think of me, pray for me. Let my name be ever the household word that it always was. Let it be spoken without the ghost of a shadow on it. Life means all that it ever meant...There is absolute unbroken continuity. Why should I be out of mind because I am out of sight?"

As we celebrate his life, Patrick T. Digby now sits with the King of Kings at the Matanzas Beach in heaven. As you have watched over him, he will now watch over you. Talk to him, and I promise you he *will* answer.

Patrick, I love you agape. I'll miss you forever. Your family is in good hands. You have graced my life and the lives of many, many others more than you will ever know. I salute you. God bless.
