

A Sisters' Story

by Jennifer Jordan

I can still feel my mom's finger nails poking my underarms as she lifted me onto the bed to meet my new brother. "Be easy," Mom said as I independently tried to pick him up. I remember being so proud of the doll we called, Jeff. Our childhood was special and centered around family. We called the 82 acres of family farm land in Magnolia, Texas we were raised on, "The Hill". We were surrounded by all of our cousins, leaving no room for boredom. If we had one, we had 10 tree houses landscaped with poison ivy and sticker burs. The "country cousins" was what we affectionately called, and we even had a float in the Magnolia Christmas parade.

"Jenn! Jenn...wake-up. Santa came....he's been here! Come on!!" I recall hearing Jeff's whisper in my ear before daylight. I remember being so tired, but his excitement made me forget that we had only been asleep for a few hours.

from having to ride the bus in high school, cheering for him when I was a senior and he was a freshman. He made the Varsity football team at Magnolia High School as a freshman...quite an accomplishment. Most of my family, including my grandma and grandpa went to Magnolia High School.

In high school, Jeff was an awesome athlete. To this day, there are still records he set hanging in the locker room. He was so handsome and a "great time" no matter where we were.

In the summer we would go to the Blanco river in San Marcos to a camp called Little Arkansas..."Mom are you taping?...I'm going to do a back flip...watch Jenn..." Then out of a tree he came, swinging from a rope and rotating backward into the water. He got a roar from everyone floating on the river.

Everything I do and everywhere I go I am reminded of Jeff. He is my very first memory;

adrenalin to my body as I waited for Jeff to ride for the Texas A&M Bull riding championship. The horn blew and Jeff was still on the back of the bull that won him the 2003 Bull Riding Championship. He jumped off and threw his hat high in the air and looked over at us with the smile of a champion. Jeff wore the A&M buckle proudly, he felt accomplished and humbled by the experience. My dad now wears the buckle, and one day it will be worn by Gus. I worry a lot about Gus not knowing the cowboy that won it. My family and friends reassure me that my son will know Jeff through the stories we tell, but I know it will not be the same as living life with him.

A Tragic Loss

I never thought that I would be writing about my brother's life after his death. I thought he would have out-lived us all. He will never comb gray hair; he will never need glasses to see or a cane to walk. He will be young for



Milestones and Memories

This past Christmas was the first time I wasn't able to pick out the perfect gift for my brother. It was our first Christmas without him. Instead of shopping for him, I went to the cemetery with my family so could hang a wreath on his grave.

With the coming of January, there was another milestone to pass...Jeff's birthday. I had a party with all of our cousins to celebrate his life. For his present we took a cowboy hat covered in flowers, trimmed with a feather on the brim, to the cemetery.

Pastures surround the cemetery where Jeff is buried. In the pastures, longhorns graze. There is a bench nearby. It is where I go to think quietly and pray for peace.

"Come on Jenn"..."man you take forever to get ready!" Jeff was always waiting on me for a ride to school. So many memories...saving him

he is the voice in my head and will forever be the one I miss. I look at my son, Gus and can not imagine him not knowing Jeff like I did. Jeff was so proud to finally be an uncle. Gus was only five months old when Jeff left us. Since Jeff has been gone, Gus has sat up for the first time, cut his first tooth, and started crawling. It makes me sad that Jeff was not here to be a part of the life he was so excited about sharing.

"Oh my gosh, look at your belly...how much longer?" Jeff could not wait to meet his niece or nephew. The day that Jeff became an uncle, he was also accepted into Texas A&M. He even brought the letter to show me in the hospital. It was a wonderful day, but never did I expect that he would be robbed of graduating and following his lifelong dream of being an Aggie...

"Coming out of gate four, your rider -Jeff Ingram!" The announcer brought chills and

ever, handsome always and never forgotten by the ones that were blessed to know him.

The saying "life can change in an instant" hit home for my family and me on October 21, 2006. Lights came over the lawn while I was sitting outside. I got up and went to see who was there and was met by law enforcement officers. My heart sank and I knew that something horrible was about to be revealed. I was holding on to my cousin and my dad was in front of me listening. I heard them say that Jeff was gone. The pain in my heart was so great, not only for me, but for my parents. The worst day I could have imagined has become a reality. Neither my family nor I was ever able to see Jeff without life. We were robbed of a great man who deserved nothing but love. The last time I saw Jeff was at a family wedding. We were dancing, smiling and laughing. I am so glad for that time we had together and our last dance. I

remember the last things he said to me were, "See you later Jenn. Be careful. I love you."

The facts of the case can't be revealed here because the investigation on Jeff's case is still open. I pray for truth, for it is there we will find peace. Jeff will live on through his family and friends and will never die...for nothing loved is ever lost.

Finding Closure

Family and friends of Jeff need your help to solve this case. Anyone with information regarding the death of Jeff Ingram should call Grimes County Crime Stoppers at: (936) 873-2000. A reward of up to \$5,000 for the arrest and conviction of person/persons involved in the case of Jeffery Ryan Ingram is being offered and all names and information given will remain anonymous.

In Jeff's memory, the family has started the Jeffery Ingram Memorial Scholarship Foundation to raise funds for a scholarship that will be awarded to a student at Magnolia High School (Jeff's Alma Mater) so that they may follow their dreams of higher education. It will go to a



student who is like Jeff in that they have a fighting heart, strong dedication, and a love for life. Even people that knew Jeff for only a short time knew what his family has known all along; he was a smile you could count on, a loyal friend, hard worker, fierce competitor, fighting warrior and now, our angel. Help us celebrate a life we miss, cherish and love by being a part of this worthy cause.

WHAT: The Jeffery Ingram Memorial Scholarship Foundation Golf Tournament

WHEN: July 14, 2007

WHERE: High Meadow Ranch Golf Club

MORE INFO:

**www.JEFFINGRAM.com or email
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The family and Memorial Foundation appreciates your donations and support. Current needs include auction items, sponsorships, players for the tournament, and your prayers. 🇺🇸!