

'A Tree against the Sunset'

Edgar Guest, a renowned American poet at the turn of the 20th century, told of a neighbor by the name of Jim Potter.

Potter ran a drugstore in the small town where Guest lived. Guest recalled that daily he would pass his neighbor, and they would smile and exchange greetings. But it was a mere casual relationship.

Then came the tragic night in the life of Guest when his firstborn child died. He felt lonely and defeated. These were grim days for him, and he was overcome with grief.

Several days later, Guest had reason to go to the drugstore run by his neighbor, and when he entered, Jim Potter motioned for him to come behind the counter.

"Eddie," he said, "I really can't express to you the great sympathy that I have for you at this time. All I can say is that I am terribly sorry, and if you need for me to do anything, you can count on me."

Many years later, Guest wrote of that encounter in one of his books. This is how he worded it: "Just a person across the way – a passing acquaintance. Jim Potter may have long since forgotten that moment when he extended his hand to me in sympathy, but I shall never forget it – never in all my life. To me, it stands out like the silhouette of a lonely tree against the crimson sunset."

Have you wondered how you want people to remember you when you come to the end of life's journey? I have.

Would you like for people to say of you at the end of life's pilgrimage: "When we were sick, he (or she) came to us; when we needed help, he (or she) was there; when I was down, he (or she) lifted me up."

For those who work in Life Care and Century Park, your ministry will be remembered for simple acts of kindness and compassion.

With that being the case, your life will have been worth it, and fulfills the greatest commandments in life: Love God and love your neighbor.

Then one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, perceiving that He (Jesus) had answered them well, asked Him, "Which is the first commandment of all?" Jesus answered him, "The first of all the commandments is: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' This is the first commandment. And the second, like it, is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these" (Mark 12:28-31 NKJV).