

The Ensign

Zarahemla Branch

JULY 2015



Pastor's Corner High Priest Brad Gault



Heartland Honor Flight 7 October 2014

By Carlin Talcott

On 20 August at 8:32 p.m. I received a call from Christy , my flight liaison of the Heartland Honor Flight staff. We had exchanged several calls before, but this call was different. Her first words were “Carlin, you’re going!” I had been selected to fly with World War II and Korea War veterans to Washington, DC to visit several memorials there. Our flight was to leave on 7 October.

On 18 September I received a call from Sarah, who was to be my Guardian during the entire day. We would meet on 25 September at a mandatory Pre-Flight Orientation meeting at the Kauffman Conference Center in Kansas City. When Sarah and I met at the meeting, I learned that she was from Nebraska, graduated from college there and was a physical therapist.

Interestingly she lived only a few miles from where I had lived my last 4 years in Iowa at ages 7–11. We connected immediately and could tell that we were going to have a very enjoyable trip. Each veteran was required to have a Guardian regardless of his/her physical condition.

On flight day we were asked to be at KCI Airport at 5:00 a.m., our flight scheduled to depart KCI at 6:30 a.m. All processing, security, etc. was accomplished in a relaxed manner unlike regular commercial flights. When we received important information at our Pre-Flight Orientation meeting 25 September, we were also given caps and T-shirts for ID purposes on the trip. The caps were one solid color: red, white, blue or gold. On the front of the T-shirt was the Heartland Honor Flight logo and on the back were these words: “If you can read this, thank a teacher. If you can read this in English, thank a Veteran”. There were 6 of us from our Korea War Veterans Association, Chapter 2 on the flight. It seemed a little unusual to have so many of us from our Chapter 2 selected for the same flight.

While we were waiting for our departure, we visited with family and friends. I had a great visit with Sarah’s dad during that time. We also had a reporter and his cameraman on the flight with us. They were from TV Channel 9 and interviewed a friend of mine and I during our “wait-time”. We could sense an air of anticipation and excitement as we began to move toward the aircraft. This was a charter flight with U. S. Airways. As we boarded the aircraft we were greeted by the crew and staff members from the Heartland Honor Flight going with us. The aircraft was brightly decorated throughout in red, white and blue flags, streamers and stars, a sight to behold! My seat number was next to the window, Sarah in the middle and a Guardian for another veteran on the aisle seat. In a few minutes we heard the engines roar into life and we began to move toward the assigned runway. There appeared to be little air traffic and in moments we were airborne. Our departure was delayed several minutes, however we picked up a strong tailwind and arrived at Reagan Washington National in 1 hour 54 minutes, touched down and were directed to our parking gate by the ground crewman.

As we left the aircraft and proceeded into the passageway toward the lobby, we began to hear patriotic music. As we approached the entrance the doors were opened and we were greeted and welcomed by what could be called a screaming crowd of hundreds of people lining the sides of the lobby. Sarah was beside me, though as we were moving slowly she moved to one side and began taking pictures like a professional photographer. The scene was a bedlam and completely overwhelming for me. I stopped, and as I tried to adjust to the situation before me, the tears began to flow down my face

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uninhibited. The TV reporter who interviewed my friend and I at KCI in Kansas City saw my reaction and, putting his microphone near my face, asked me, "How do you react to this?" With tears still flowing I said, "This is indescribable, I can't talk." After leaving the reporter, we began to move again and a woman on my right called to me and pointed to a group of women and girls about 10 feet to my left holding a large sign about 4 feet by 10 feet with big words that said "We give Hugs!" They weren't kidding either.

We finally made our way outside the terminal to our transportation for the day. There were 4 huge, luxurious tour buses. Parked next to them were 3 cars from the U.S. Park Service Police with their emergency lights flashing. As we loaded, those vets with red caps were directed to Bus #1, white caps to Bus #2, blue caps to Bus #3 and those of us with gold caps to Bus #4. Once we began moving, we had 3 police escorts in front of our buses. When we approached an intersection that had 2 side streets merging into our street, 2 of the escorts moved over to block their traffic. We always had at least 1 escort ahead of us. I could not say for sure, but I believe all of the traffic lights we went thru were red. I remember later in the day saying to Sarah, "That last light almost turned to green before we went thru."

Our 1st stop was the World War II National Memorial. The walkways were lined with throngs of people. It was almost like running a gauntlet. Sometimes people would want to shake hands or give you a hug and have their picture taken with you. We entered the memorial on the Atlantic side and immediately saw the many concrete columns which represented the individual states of the United States. Former Senator Bob Dole stopped and visited with us at the memorial. He is in his early 90's and was looking quite well, I thought, considering what he went through during the war in Europe. While we were at the memorial, the Honor Flight staff got all of the vets together for a group picture. I counted 20 vets in wheelchairs.

Our 2nd stop was the Korea/Vietnam/Lincoln Memorials where we had another group picture. The Korea memorial includes a patrol of soldiers and is quite realistic. The Vietnam memorial includes the Wall which contains the names of those who died during the war. Since I was a young boy, I always wanted to see the Lincoln Memorial. In recent years it seems I have seen so many pictures of it on TV. As I stood in front of Lincoln in reverence, I thought back in school about the things I had learned of this great man, and here I was standing before him. While there I met and took opportunity to visit with the leader of the Honor Flight group from New Mexico.

Our 3rd stop was Arlington National Cemetery, the Tomb of the Unknowns and a 3 p.m. Changing of the Guard. As you enter the area of the Unknowns, there is a sign that requests silence, no talking or noise whatsoever. The ceremony changing the guards was very impressive. Two members of our Korean War Veterans Association, Chapter 2 of Kansas City and 2 World War II veterans participated in laying a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns. I have a cousin buried at Arlington. There is also a sign saying Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. I understand others have been added there in the tomb.

Our 4th stop was the Marine Corps War memorial/Iwo Jima memorial. It was here I had a brief visit with a Korean woman who was also on our Honor Flight as a Guardian. She was 7 years old when the Korean War began. She said she remembered how she and her friends were given candy bars by the American soldiers. In remembrance of these times she passed out candy bars to all during our flight. The memorial here depicts the raising of the American flag on Iwo Jima during and after the war. The Marines on the memorial were massive figures.

Throughout our tour we were given plenty of water and snacks. When we reboarded our buses after each stop, the Bus Captain on each bus had "Roll Call", calling out the name of each person riding on that bus. I immediately began a routine with our bus, saluting him and saying "Cap'n". We bonded quickly which has led to a lasting friendship. The Honor Flight staff included medical personnel and others who were prepared to meet any need of the veterans. We were treated like royalty and by the "Roll Call", no veteran was going to be "Left Behind".

Our 5th stop was the Air Force memorial. As I approached the memorial, I began thinking about the many years of service and sacrifice by my brother and sister, Dean and DJ during his long military career in the Air Force. A staff member at the memorial took me aside and said, "Look over there." I looked and recognized the shape of the building as the Pentagon. It was about 500 yards away from us. He said to look closely and I would see the difference in the color of the building materials. He said that was where the terrorists' plane hit the Pentagon on 9/11.

Our 6th stop was the FDR memorial. It depicts the 12 pivotal years of Franklin Delano Roosevelt's presidency through a series of four outdoor gallery rooms. It was here I could not resist the temptation to go up to Roosevelt's Scottie dog named Fawla and pet him. I also remembered when we lived in Wyoming in 1937, my dad took our family to Mount Rushmore in the Black Hills of Western South Dakota. This is the site of the monument with the massive likenesses of Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln and Theodore Roosevelt. Franklin Delano Roosevelt was there to dedicate the likeness of Theodore Roosevelt. Of course I was only 5 years old at the time and the only things I remember were the booming voice of FDR and the static like popping of the public-address system.

Our 7th and final stop was Reagan Washington National Airport where we had an hour or so of free-time and plenty of restaurants. I had looked forward to treating Sarah to a nice sit-down dinner, but I should have known better, too many people. So we got a couple of burgers and went over to a waiting area for departures. While we were eating we watched a few people who were jitterbugging to some music of the 1940's. After awhile we were called to board our aircraft to begin the flight home to KCI.

After we were airborne once more, we were given a "light dinner". In a few minutes the Honor Flight staff began passing out large white envelopes at a "mail call". They contained letters and notes from families and friends and students from schools from both Kansas and Missouri and from people in other parts of the country. I received one from a family living on the East coast. Sarah's dad had written a rather short letter, 1 page, then I saw a second letter of 2 full pages. The flight back to KCI was relaxing and I even took time to close my eyes and think about where we had been and what we had done. It was unbelievable!

We touched down at KCI about 10:20 in the evening and as we made our way into the terminal, many people were there to welcome us home. Although the throng was on a smaller scale, they were no less sincere. Sarah's dad was there to meet us, as was my family, and we all had a good visit before we parted and went back to our we homes. It had been a long day, a whirlwind trip, but one that I will never forget!

This article would not be complete without expressing some personal feelings. My Guardian could have been anyone, but it was Sarah. I believe, without a doubt, that the Lord combined the circumstances in our individual lives in such a way that Sarah was assigned to be my Guardian. When people ask me about the trip, I tell them that it was an unforgettable experience. That being said, it was only 1% of the entire experience. The companionship and friendship with Sarah was the other 99%. Sarah's dad has told me I am a member of their family's household. I have told him I consider them my family and Sarah my grand-daughter. I have always heard that those who are adopted are more special because they were chosen. The family is in my daily prayers that the Lord will bless them in their special needs and concerns of life each day. I thank the Lord daily for bringing me together with Sarah and her family.

Women's Department

Half of the 2015 year zoomed right past us. We all seem to be caught in a time warp that is faster than thought. Setting that aside, we are reminded of the class early this year, "Choose Eternal Life". In addition to the class study itself, the wonderful experience of sharing together and the variety of discussion leaders: Irene Power, JoMarie Bronson, Shirley Andrews, Marilyn James, D.J. Falconer, and Barb Giertz. This fall we will be studying "The Beauty of Holiness". We hope to enjoy these discussion leaders again.

In the meantime. The second Thursday of July, August and September will be Ladies Night. July 9, at 6:00 PM, we will meet for dinner at the Olive Garden, 801 NE Coronado, Blue Springs. Financial constraints should not prevent any women from participating and enjoying the Sisterhood for an evening. Please do advise Barb Giertz if you plan to attend. The restaurant will be making room for all our Ladies.

May God continue to guide each of you in your Service to Him.

Barbara Giertz

DEVOTIONS

July 2015

- July 5th** **Lloyd Stilwell Family**
- July 12th** **Wayne Simmons Family**
- July 19th** **Chuck Perry Family**
- July 26th** **Dwayne Martin Family**

If you are not able to keep your assignment, please find someone to fill your spot.

Deacon Schedule

July 2015

- July 5th *Morning* **Kyle Norman**
- July 12th *Morning* **Rudy Leutzinger**
- July 19th *Morning* **Lloyd Stilwell**
- July 26th *Morning* **Jack McClain**

Musical Schedule

July 5th

Devotional Service - Ashley Gault

10:30 Service - Ashley Gault

6:00 pm Service - Summer Series

July 12th

Devotional Service - Jill Moore

10:30 Service - Jill Moore

6:00 pm Service - Summer Series

July 19th

Devotional Service - Kevin McMilian

10:30 Service - Kevin McMilian

6:00 pm Service - Summer Series

July 26th

Devotional Service - Jeri Gault

10:30 Service - Jeri Gault

6:00 pm Service - Summer Series

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

July 5th Mens Quartet

July 12th Steve Rideout

July 19th Echo

July 26th Tikvah Sperry



Preston Michael Wesley Scott, son of Michael and Hailey Scott was blessed by Elder David Scott and Seventy Patrick McKay.

JULY ACTIVITIES

- 5th 8:00 am Priesthood prayer service
- 5th 6:00 pm Summer Series at Independence Branch. Neil Simmons will be preaching.
- 9th 6:00 pm Ladies Night Out. We will meet at the Olive Garden in Blue Springs for dinner.
- 11th Independence Reunion begins at Odessa. Registration will be at 3:00 pm. The Reunion runs through the 18th.
- 12th 6:00 p.m. Summer Series at Odessa Camp Grounds.
- 19th POTLUCK
- 19th 6:00 pm Summer Series at Zarahemla Branch. Jim Nolte will be preaching.
- 25th 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm Zion's League swim party at the home of Marilyn & Rolland James.
- 26th 6:00 pm Summer Series at Independence Branch. Chris Pedersen will be preaching.
- 27th 10:00 am - 12:30 pm Lamplighters will meet at McMilian's house. They will be grilling outdoors.

JULY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 David Frye
- 2 Andrew Perry
- 3 Seth O'Camb
- 3 Chris Thomas
- 6 Max Moore
- 7 Marilyn Torsch
- 9 Jenna Canfield
- 9 Pam Henson
- 10 DJ Falconer
- 14 Russ Stireman
- 16 Duane Newman
- 19 Matt Stilwell
- 22 Derrek Bronson
- 22 Hazel McKay
- 24 Byron Smarr
- 26 Andrew Canfield
- 27 Tanya Hayes
- 27 Alicia Crosley
- 29 Jon Megee

ACTIVITY

JULY

CALENDAR

2015

Zarahemla Branch

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 <u>Luke 11:10-11</u>	2	3	4
			7:00 pm Prayer Service Presiding: Roger Gault Assisting: Wayne Simmons			
5 8:00 Priesthood Prayer Service 9:15 Morning Worship 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service Presiding: Patrick McKay Preaching: David Bronson 6:00 pm Summer Series Preaching: Neil Simmons	6	7	8 <u>Omni 1:47</u>	9 Ladies Night Out Meet at 6:00 pm at Olive Garden	10	11
12 9:15 Morning Worship 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service Presiding: Rex Curtis Preaching: Kent Pedersen 6:00 Summer Series Preaching:	13	14	15 <u>Alma 4:6</u>	16	17	18
19 9:15 Morning Worship 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service Presiding: Bonner Davis Preaching: Rex Curtis POTLUCK 6:00 pm Summer Series Preaching: Jim Nolte	20	21	22 <u>D & C 85:21a</u>	23	24	25 Zion's League 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm Swim party at the James Pool
26 9:15 Morning Worship 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service Presiding: Brad Gault Preaching: Duane Newman 6:00 pm Summer Series Preaching: Chris Pedersen	27 Lamplighters 10:00 am to 12:30 pm At McMilian home	28	29 <u>Heleman 2:31</u>	30	31	
			7:00 pm Prayer Service Presiding: Patrick McKay Assisting: Rolland James			

INDEPENDENCE DISTRICT SUMMER SERIES

JULY 5 - SEVENTY NEIL SIMMONS SPEAKING AT INDEPENDENCE BRANCH. 6:00 PM

JULY 12 - TO BE HELD AT THE INDEPENDENCE DISTRICT REUNION AT ODESSA HILLS CAMPGROUND

JULY 19 - ELDER JIM NOLTE SPEAKING AT ZARHEMLA BRANCH. 6:00 PM

JULY 26 - SEVENTY CHRISTOPHER PEDERSEN SPEAKING AT INDEPENDENCE BRANCH. 6:00 PM

AUGUST 2 - SEVENTY JONAH BATES SPEAKING AT SAINTS HAVEN BRANCH. 6:00 PM

AUGUST 9 - ELDER BRIAN MUNDY SPEAKING AT ZARHEMLA BRANCH. 6:00 PM

AUGUST 16 - HIGH PRIEST TOM BEEM SPEAKING AT INDEPENDENCE BRANCH. 6:00 PM

July 11-18 - Independence District Family Reunion
(Odessa, MO)
Theme: "The Kingdom of Heaven is like unto....."
Reunion registration starts at 3:00 pm on 7/11/15 and will end about noon on the following Saturday 7/18/15
Contact Dan or Ruthanne Norman for information
816-728-0656 816-728-0653 dannorman@yahoo.com

If you have anything to submit for the newsletter, please call Marilyn 816- 215-2299

OR

e-mail it to me (marilyn.counts@gmail.com) OR (give it to me at church). PLEASE JUST SHARE WITH US IN THE August 2015 NEWSLETTER. Deadline for the August 2015 newsletter will be July 30th, 2015 and will be emailed before Saturday, August 1st, 2015.

Thank you for supporting the congregational newsletter.
Marilyn James, Editor



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