

Spring has Sprung!!!!

Well, we finally have some decent weather! This being the second week of John & Barbara's visit, we took advantage of the weather to visit a Center for Birds of Prey, the *Avian Conservation Center in Awendaw, SC*. This proved to be an excellent choice! We listened to an outdoor presentation on birds of prey in the area, followed by a flight demonstration, which was phenomenal! There were numerous birds housed there because of injuries or an inability to adjust to the wild. This Center is a medical and rehabilitation center for injured and sick birds. It is a non profit organization, with mostly volunteer staff. For lunch, we asked where we could get something to eat and were directed to a small restaurant just outside the grounds on route 17. It was a great find, with outstanding fish entrées. We still talk about it. We would go again, but it is quite a ride, just this side of Charleston.

At this point, John is doing well with his recovery from the stroke, but needless to say he was not able to drive the camper home. Arrangements were made to get it home and John & Barbara took an Amtrak train home from Florence. The picture is below on the right.

Yep!! Yours truly celebrated another birthday, and "No", I am not going to discuss my "Age"! Notice, I did NOT make this my monthly headline! All kidding aside, I have a lot to be thankful for. Bob & I had a nice quiet dinner at a favorite local restaurant and then he took me for a ride? We ended up at the Carolina Opry, which is a popular music variety show in Myrtle Beach. So much for an impromptu ride around town! This was his plan the whole time. It was an excellent show and a nice ending for my birthday.

Other happenings included our New York Club 'wine and cheese' gathering in the club house. We were still getting to know each other and had a great time. We also had the annual yard sale in our community. Even Nancy brought some goods to sell! We also took a ride down to the 82nd street Pier, where we had lunch, walked the boardwalk, and enjoyed the Spring weather.

The first pictures below was at the Birding Center. Then above there is a volunteer talking with John & Barbara about the many birds they have. Below that the staff is giving a talk to all of us which is followed by a flying demonstration, which was outstanding. Seewee is the restaurant we ate at. Last is the NY Club.



The next page is devoted to a special event, which Bob & I were so happy to be a part of. Our friend and neighbor, Charles Daughaday, veteran of WWII and the Korean War, participated in the final Honor Flight out of Myrtle Beach on April 8th, 2014. He had a wonderful day visiting the memorials and witnessing the changing of the guard.

WWII Honor Flight

We were at the Airport to greet Charles and the other Veterans upon their return from Washington DC. Below, you can see how people started gathering early. As the arrival time drew near, a path was cleared for Veterans to move through the crowd once off the plane and through the gate. There was evidence of heightened anticipation. The American Flag was everywhere. We stood near the end of the pathway, where we could get a good view. Where we stood, there were several members of the "Rolling Thunder" Bike group showing their support by lining the route with large American flags. Many of the veterans were in wheel chairs. As they moved through people cheered, reaching out, shaking hands, thanking them for their service to our country! Activity mounted, and it was even difficult for me to get good photos with all the movement. Then, there he was! We called, "Charles, over here!" He was surprised to see us! He had a day of many surprises, with family showing up when the plane landed in Washington DC and again when he landed back in Myrtle Beach. I did get a couple of fairly good pictures of Charles as he came through the line. I believe the person to the left in the second picture from the bottom is his sponsor. Charles is 90 next month!



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Charles almost didn't go as he had visited the memorial on his own, previously. Each Veteran had a sponsor, who not only paid for the airfare, but accompanied each Veteran and stayed with them all day. Charles decided to go and it was clear when listening to him that he was overwhelmed by the experience. Bob & I were thrilled to be part of the welcome home reception. Many of these Veterans are clearly up in age now and the group is getting smaller and smaller, which is probably the reason this was the final flight. Thank you Charles for your service to our country!!

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