

Dear Family and Friends,

We have had a busy summer. In May we went to Boone, NC for a granddaughter's graduation from college. She majored in Chemistry with minors in Forensic Science, Math and Criminal Justice. She will go to NC State for her PHD in Chemistry. Another granddaughter graduated from Old Dominion with her degree in Marine Biology.

In June we went with Fare Price Tours to Washington, DC. Our bus took us on a tour of Washington with a guide. The bus stopped near the White House and we walked down to the White House. When we returned to the bus, it would not start, so that ended the tour. They had to find a bust to take us to the hotel. A replacement arrived for the bus and we went to an Italian Restaurant for dinner. The next morning we went to the Holocaust Museum which is so very sad. I wish everyone would see it. Maybe people would have a better understanding of what happened. After lunch we had a guided tour of the Capital Building. In the evening we went to the Kennedy Center for dinner and to see "Hello Dolly" which was very enjoyable.

Thursday morning we visited the Bible Museum. This is very well and beautifully done. It is very informative, has an area to represent the city Jesus grew up in. It is well worth a visit. This was my first visit and I would like to go back.

I have been attending some of the Official visits with Bea Money Penny, Grand Esther which I have really enjoyed.

On August 27th we flew to Paris to spend time with David, Jelena and the grandchildren. Luca is 15. Chloe will graduate in September from Oxford with her Masters in Math. She will stay on for her PHD.

Jelena, Chloe and I went to the Louvre Museum while Peter, David and Luca played golf. There were so many tourists in Paris that to visit anything you have to book online to get into most attractions. The museum is undergoing renovations but still so much to see. So many people you had to line up for some of the exhibits. We went to Napoleons living area and to see the Mona Lisa and many other areas. The Eiffel Tower is closed off at the bottom. You can no longer walk underneath but you can still go to the top. We ate at one lovely restaurant Le Bristol which David arranged. During the day we ate at local cafes.

On Tuesday, we caught the Eurostar train to England. We got off at Ebbsfleet station and hired a car. It was quite unusual as the clerk tried to talk us into an upgrade Mercedes but we did not want to pay the extra money. However after looking at his computer for a long time, he finally said we were getting the upgrade for the price I had originally reserved. So we have been driving this Mercedes around. It has so many features with no instruction book. I have really had "fun" pushing buttons and knobs to figure out how to work the radio, GPS, air and heat options. We drove to Gosport and stayed in The Old Lodge. I attended an Eastern Star Meeting where I am an honorary member. They always have a fun meeting. They are also having a hard time getting new members. Masons in England cannot join Eastern Star. This is also near where we lived while we were in England before Peter retired from the Navy.

Love to all,
Shirley