

Ozarks Prairie Sooners Washington D.C / New York

September 2019 Rolling Rally Planned by Larry and Billy Oth

Twelve coaches signed up for the September rolling rally through Kentucky, Washington D.C., Philadelphia, and New York City. Some of us had a little experience in touring these areas and for some of us it was the first time.

Several of us left a few days early and stopped by the Corvette Museum in Bowling Green.



Large sink hole at the museum Feb. 12, 2014



This beautiful yellow corvette was sold and ready for delivery to the Strickland's!

Well, not to Cal and Sharon but someone else named Strickland. 😊

There were several of us who also went to Mammoth Caves. There were several tours of different levels. Our tour included 540 steps and bending over to squeeze through narrow passages called fat man's nightmare, and tall man's agony.

On the 8th of September we all met up at the Three Springs campground in Corinth, KY where we spent a couple of days touring the Creation museum and Noah's Ark.



Looking at the several different levels of the Ark.

Noah releasing the dove.



Food storage, and cooking area.



Creation Museum Gardens



Don't we look dapper with our 4D glasses as we prepare to watch "In the Beginning" at the Creation Museum



Ruth and Charles lucked out with the only wood deck in the campground so we made good use out of it.



Celebrating Roger's 85 wonderful years!
Roger wasn't too excited we found out his age, but he's an inspiration to many of us! Several in our group that might be older than others are not only young in spirit, but also very active. Uplifting to see so many living lives to the fullest. Keep going strong Roger - you're doing great!



As we traveled to our next stop in College Park MD, some of us stopped to tour Monticello.

Monticello, Home of Thomas Jefferson



I'm not sure there is a man or woman today that compares to what Jefferson accomplished in his lifetime. The thousands of books in his collection that he read helped to make him the man he was. He understood the importance of being self-sufficient by planting a garden and several types of trees (including the maple to provide syrup to produce his own sugar). Many of you may know him from the Monticello wine. It was intriguing to be able to look at the back of the nickel and compare that image of his home to what we saw.

Jefferson is most famous for the writing of the Declaration of Independence and for being our 3rd President. He also established the Univ of Virginia and doubled the size of the U.S. through the Louisiana purchase. For me, it was a fun lesson in history that was long forgotten (as surely I learned this in school). ☺

On September 12, we arrived at Cherry Hill RV park in College Park, MD. It's a convenient place to camp while touring the Washington D.C. area. We quickly learned the bus and metro routes to get where we needed to be thanks to the people at the park. Our 1st trip all together using the bus/metro was to tour the White House.



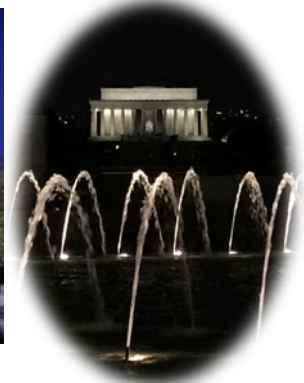
We learned quickly that no matter where you went during the trip, going through



security check points was part of seeing anything. After a couple of small hiccups, we all made it past the security stations. The east wing of the white house is what we were able to tour, and even though the President was in the White House, we never spotted him. The secret service were in each room and answered any questions that you had.



Friday evening, we boarded a bus for our night tour.



Saturday morning Larry and Billy provided a breakfast of biscuits and gravy for all. Yummy 😊

That Saturday was a free day which allowed everyone to explore what they were interested in.

Some went to the Holocaust Museum which was so surreal. At the beginning of the tour, you receive a card with a person impacted by the holocaust and follow their story to determine if they lived or died. This made the experience very personal.

Others visited the History museum, Bible museum or one of the many other museums. Bob visited the food trucks. We heard positive feedback on all of these!

On Sunday, September 15, we had a full day bus tour of D.C.

The tour included a water taxi ride on the Potomac, Georgetown, Iwo Jima Memorial, Air Force Monument, Lunch at the Pentagon Mall, as well as Arlington Cemetery.

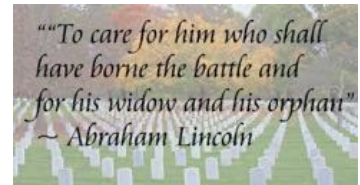
The U.S. Marine Corps Memorial, located in Washington D.C., is also known as the Iwo Jima Memorial (see photo at right).



The design of the U.S. Air Force Memorial includes **three** stainless steel **spires** that soar 270 feet high and represent contrails of the Air Force Thunderbirds as they disperse in a "bomb burst" maneuver.



We stood in awed silence while the dedicated soldiers who watch over the Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers complete the changing of the guard.



JFK Eternal Flame Arlington Cemetery



Our group tour through the US Capitol was bittersweet for me as I didn't pay attention to the security rules of what we could carry in our purse. I had a glass fingernail file (\$10) along with several of my favorite snacks for the day. The security personnel trashed all of my snacks and the glass file. Interestingly, he said that if we walked to the Library of Congress, there was a tunnel that led to the capitol and security was not as strict at that location. (Really!) It makes no sense to have inconsistent security rules into the same building.



This security inconsistency was tested as several people toured the Library of Congress prior to the capitol and came through the tunnel. They also were carrying various snacks and drinks with them.



As we gathered at the capitol in our meeting spot, I see Lisa trying to hide while she is sneaking a bite of her apple which she had smuggled in her purse through the tunnel entrance. They had no problems with security! Why bother having security if it's not the same at each entrance?

We had passes to the House and Senate which required another trip through security and belongings left in cubbies.

In the House of Representatives, there was a Texas senator speaking to a group of Honor Flight recipients. It was hard to hear but interesting to observe.



As with many of the buildings in D.C., it's the architecture that draws you in as well as the history behind it. I have to say the Library of Congress



was one of the most beautiful buildings we saw.

Time to leave D.C. to continue our journey to Philly.



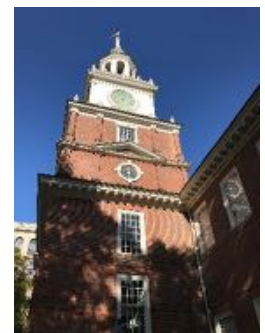
On to the next part of our journey to Philadelphia. It was a short drive from D.C. and we passed over some eye-catching bridges. The weather was perfect as well.



Everyone made it to the Philadelphia/Clarksboro KOA. We were spread apart quite a bit, but we were only there a short time and the grounds were very nice.



We were up bright and early for our tour bus to take us for an all day tour of Philadelphia which included lunch and dinner. This cute trolley showed up and we were on our way.



Our first stop Independence Hall



Sitting in the room where our forefathers sat and signed the Declaration of Independence with some of the original furniture. You try and take in all the buildings' craftmanship plus the importance of the men and the documents that shaped our nation. The enthusiasm of the guide made the room come to life.



On the raised platform is the original chair President George Washington sat in. As Patsy put it "It's amazing that it is still standing for our century to see." Even if you are not a history buff, this is worth seeing.





Philadelphia City Hall



Philadelphia Museum of Art
Also known as the famous 72 steps that Rocky ran up.

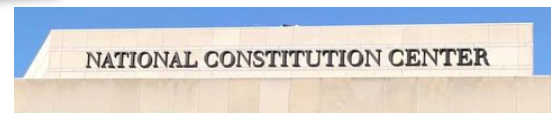


There were several of us that had fun

going to the top of the stairs and having our pictures taken. Then there was Bob who, once I was back at the bottom of the steps, calls me on the phone and told me I need to go back up so I can take his picture. However, I know him well and didn't fall for his antics - sure enough he was on the bus.



Museum of the American Revolution was fascinating!





Our day in Philadelphia comes to an end after a very nice meal.

A short drive and New York City here we come.



Times Square



Central Park



Bicycle tour



Carriage Rides

We can laugh now about our horrible bus tour guide who screamed directions at us and then asked for tips at the end. 😊



Bubbles



Ellis Island



Bob and I searched for his parent's names on the Ellis Island records for 1953. Success! Kooy was spelled Kooij in Holland, but most people from Holland changed the "ij" to "y" in their names when entering the US.

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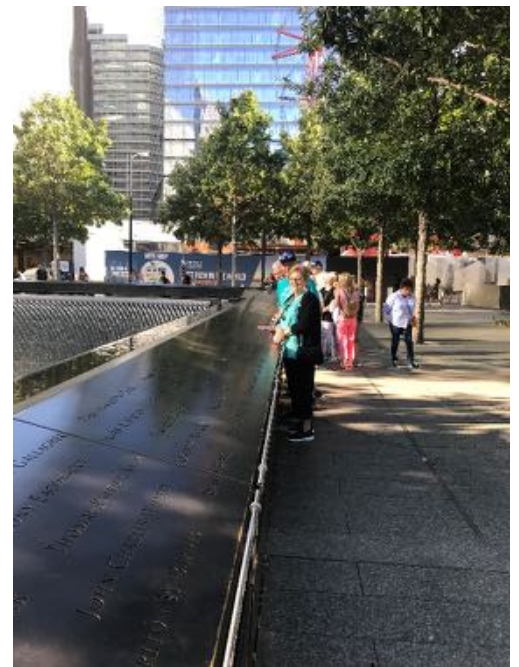




9-11 Memorial



As we solemnly listen to our guide as he takes us through the 9-11 Memorial, we relive one of the most tragic moments in history. Some of us were able to take the time to read and watch firsthand accounts when we were on



our own in the museum area, and for some of us it was just too emotional and we went through quickly.



The only window not broken in the tower.



Walking along the original foundation of the north tower.

One World Observatory



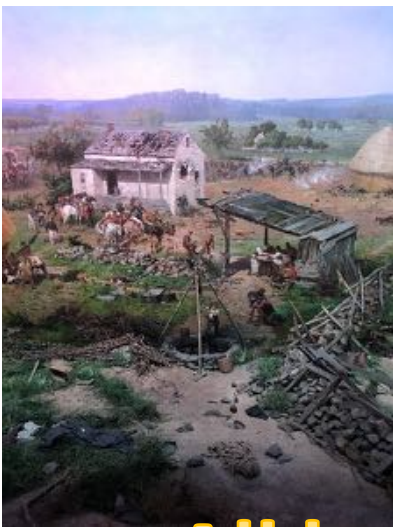
Views from the top

As our scheduled time together comes to an end, we gathered for a farewell pizza party.



Billy and Larry did a fantastic job putting together this trip, which for those who have put together trips before know it is not a simple task. We all had a wonderful, safe and very interesting trip. A few small hiccups here and there but nothing to mess up the schedule. WE WERE ALL VERY BLESSED!

I will say I thought the toll roads were quite expensive - anywhere from \$11.00 to \$48.00 – and there were several of them. Cal, Sharon, Pasty, and Thomas paid over \$100 on a toll heading to Maine. As we went our separate ways - some to Niagara Falls, Maine, and Gettysburg - I will add a few more photos.



All home safe and sound
Until our next adventure!