

Honoring the Red, White and Blue!

Submitted by Jon Sheppard



The Freedom Rock (established in 1999) is a large boulder located in rural Iowa that is repainted every year with a different "Thank You" for our nation's Veterans to honor their service to our country. The artist, Ray "Bubba" Sorensen II, was inspired by the movie Saving Private Ryan, as well as wanting to give Veterans a unique recognition on Memorial Day. For generations kids have painted graffiti - names, slogans, obscenities on this boulder, changing it's character many times. But because of Ray's great talent and patriotism, it has been left completely undisturbed. And the flag is actually painted on the rock. While painting murals across the country Sorensen had the idea of spreading the message of The Freedom Rock to other small communities across Iowa. For the next few summers Sorensen and his family will travel the state of Iowa to put a (smaller and unique to their area) Freedom Rock in each county. The Freedom Rock® Official Website The Rural Iowa Annual Mural Painting for our Veterans Painted by Ray "Bubba" Sorensen II



May 2020- Volume 25, Issue 5

Submitted by Lee Arthur - President Ronald Reagan said at a ceremony in 1986 at Arlington National Cemetery, "Memorial Day is the day we put aside to remember fallen heroes and to pray that no heroes will ever have to die for us again. It's a day of thanks for the valor of others, a day to remember the splendor of America and those of her children who rest in this cemetery and others. It's a day to be with the family and remember... and this place of so many memories, is a fitting place for remembering. So many wonderful men and women rest here, men and women who led colorful, vivid and passionate lives. There are the greats of the military: Bull Halsey and the Admirals Leahy, father and son; Black Jack Pershing, and the GI's general, Omar Bradley...great men all, military men. But there are others here known for other things. Here in Arlington rests a share-cropper's son who became a hero to a lonely people. Joe Louis came from nowhere, but he knew how to fight. And he galvanized a nation in the days after Pearl Harbor when he put on the uniform of his country and said, 'I know we'll win because we're on GOD's side.' Audie Murphy is here, a man of wild courage. For what else would you call it when a man bounds to the top of a disabled tank, stops an enemy advance, saves lives and rallies his men, and all of it single-handed. When he radioed for artillery support and was asked how close the enemy was to his position, he said, 'Wait a minute and I'll let you speak to them.'

Here are Michael Smith and Dick Scobee of the space shuttle Challenger. They were of measured courage, living for a cause to advance the sum total of knowledge in the world. They're only the latest to rest here; they join other great explorers with names like Grissom and Chaffee. Oliver Wendell Holmes is here, the great jurist and fighter for the right. Holmes served in the Civil War, and he wrote: 'At the grave of a hero we end, not with sorrow at the inevitable loss, but with the contagion of his courage; and with a kind of desperate joy we go back to the fight.' All of these men were different, but they shared this in common: They loved America very much! There was nothing they wouldn't do for her.

Not far from here is the statue of three servicemen - the three fighting boys of Vietnam. I know that many veterans of Vietnam will gather today, some of them perhaps by the wall...and they're still helping each other on. They were quite a group, the boys of Vietnam - boys who fought a terrible and vicious war without enough support from home, boys who were dodging bullets while we debated the efficacy of the battle. It was often our poor who fought in that war; it was boys of the working class who picked up the rifles and went on the march. They learned not to rely on us; they learned to rely on each other. They chose to be faithful. They chose to reject the fashionable skepticism of their time. They chose to believe and answer the call of duty. In a hypocritical age, they stood for something...and we owe them something. We must always remember that peace is a fragile thing that needs constant vigilance.

We owe them a promise to look at the world with a steady gaze and, perhaps, a resigned toughness, knowing that we have adversaries in the world and challenges and the only way to meet them and maintain the peace is by staying strong. If we really care about peace, we must stay strong! We must be strong enough to create peace where it does not exist and strong enough to protect it where it does. That's the lesson of this century and, I think, of this day. And that's all I wanted to say. Thank all of you, and GOD bless you, and have a day full of memories."



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Memorial Day
Monday - May 25, 2020



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Keeping America Great!

COULD THIS BE THE BEGINNING OF THE END FOR AMERICA?

In 1887 Alexander Tyler, a Scottish history professor at the University of Edinburgh, had this to say about the fall of the Athenian Republic some 2,000 years prior: "A democracy is always temporary in nature; it simply cannot exist as a permanent form of government.

A democracy will continue to exist up until THE time that voters vote themselves generous gifts from the public treasury. From that moment on, the majority always votes for the candidates who promise the most benefits from the public treasury, with the result that every democracy will finally collapse over loose fiscal policy, which is always followed by a Dictatorship.

The average age of the world's greatest civilizations from the beginning of history, has been about 200 years. During those 200 years, these nations always progressed through the following sequence: From bondage to spiritual faith; from spiritual faith to great courage; from courage to (Bravery) to liberty; from liberty to abundance; from abundance to complacency; from complacency to apathy; from apathy to dependence; from dependence back into bondage." The Obituary of the U.S.A. follows: Born 1776, Died 2016. I believe that the LORD has delayed the end of this democracy for the sake of saving souls. So we need to get about our business of going into our worlds and telling people about JESUS Christ. GOD loves the United States of America, and He desires that to end on a HIGH NOTE...and that's why He put Donald J. Trump in office. We give GOD all the glory for the things He has done!



GOD's Grace In Time Of Need...



It had been 2 1/2 years since I had fallen backward into a hole pulling a dead branch out of a tree, and I was bent in a shape that kept me in almost constant pain. I knew the LORD would touch me, and teach me in the process, "Not my will but Yours be done." My grandson, Johnathan, who was into extreme sports had broken both bones in his left arm (I had his story in a past newsletter), and a hip and joint surgeon, Dr. Paul Peterson, put it back together like new. Dr. and Mrs. Peterson are members of Kimberly's church. What a coincidence, huh?

I had tried chiropractors and physical therapy, thinking that it may be a big strain on my pelvis. Then in November sent an X-ray to Dr. Peterson through Kimberly. He told her that my right hip socket and bone had completely deteriorated. I'm so grateful that the LORD strengthened me to do radio and helped me to keep up with the things that were necessary in this ministry. He receives all the Glory!

In February I asked Kimberly if it would be possible for me to have surgery in Broken Arrow. She got the ball rolling by making an appointment with Ascension St. John Hospital and Tulsa Hip and Joint (Dr. Peterson's office). My first appointment was March 2nd, and Kimberly so willingly came and drove me to Oklahoma. Dayna had stepped in, and because she does Accounts Receivable for Colorado Springs Christian Schools, she was the perfect person to keep the books for Call To Freedom, get the mail and make deposits, which she did so beautifully the whole month of March. And Kimberly and Matthew were such great hosts during my rehabilitation in their lovely home. Praise GOD from Whom all blessings flow!

After orientation on March 2nd, surgery was scheduled for the 16th. There were so many changes to get ready for surgery; I had to go off of all supplements except Vitamin C, and on to pain medication, which you know I don't like to take anything that isn't natural - I'm off of everything now - Praise the LORD! The surgery took place on March 16th...and I was the last surgery before the whole hospital shut down because of the Corona virus. What a miracle that was! In fact, the nurses had two patients who were to go to surgery, get dressed and go home! That statue of JESUS stands in the foyer of the hospital with the Scripture from John 20:29, "**Blessed are they who did not see Me, and yet Believe!**"



A Patriot For Sure!

Story submitted by Jon Sheppard



Remember the guy who wouldn't take the flag pole down on his Virginia property a while back? You might remember the news story several years ago about a crotchety old man in Virginia who defied his local Homeowners Association (HOA), and refused to take down the flag pole on his property along with the large American flag he flew on it. Now we learn who that old man was. On June 15, 1919, Van T. Barfoot was born in Edinburg, Texas. That probably didn't make news back then. But twenty-five years later, on May 23, 1944,



near Carano, Italy, that same Van T. Barfoot, who had in 1940 enlisted in the U.S. Army, set out alone to flank German machine gun positions from which gunfire was raining down on his fellow soldiers. His advance took him through a minefield but having done so, he proceeded to single-handedly take out three enemy machine gun positions, returning with 17 prisoners of war. And if that weren't enough for a day's work, he later took on and destroyed three German tanks sent to retake the machine gun positions, returning with more prisoners of war. Barfoot retired as a Colonel after also serving in Korea and Vietnam, and received a well-deserved Congressional Medal of Honor.

What did make news was his neighborhood association's quibble with how the 90-year-old veteran chose to fly the American flag outside his suburban Virginia home. The HOA rules said it was okay to fly a flag on a house-mounted flagpole, but the 21-foot flagpole was "unsuitable". Van Barfoot had been denied a permit for the pole, but erected it anyway and was facing court action unless he agreed to take it down. Then the HOA story made national TV, and the neighborhood association rethought its position and agreed to indulge this aging hero who dwelt among them.

"In the time I have left", he said to the Associated Press, "I plan to continue to fly the American flag without interference." As well he should. And if any of his neighbors had taken a notion to contest him further, they might have done well to read his Medal of Honor citation first. Seems it indicates Colonel Van Barfoot wasn't particularly good at backing down. We only live in the land of the free because of the Brave...and because of old men like Colonel Van Barfoot!



Home Of Refuge

Saving the Lost...Loving the Unlovable



Rosa and I stand with you in believing for GOD's hand of protection and provision over your lives and the lives of those you care about. We feel deeply for those who are suffering and experiencing the effects of the virus that has seemed to take over in every household throughout the world. But we know that we serve a GOD Who is greater than the effects of any plague or virus...and we lean hard on Him because He said, "**Do not be afraid; I will go before you and I will take care of you...and I will deliver you.**" He's the GOD of the mountain, the GOD Who destroys your enemies...the all-sufficient One, El Shaddai. This is what He has promised: "**I will rescue you from every hidden trap of the enemy, and I will protect you from false accusations and any deadly curse. My arms are wrapped around you, protecting you...and you can run under My covering because I Am a shield, keeping you from harm...so don't fear a thing!**" (Ps. 91 - Passion)

We want to leave that Promise with you....
Continuing in Love, Tony & Rosa Rivera - Home of Refuge - Peru

