



March - 2022

Issue No: 374



**Welcome
Avery!**



Avery Michael Riel Joins the Family!

Update from Sam

Avery was born at 4:27pm on 2/23/22. He weighed 7 pounds and 11 ounces and was 20 inches. Frank and my mom were both in the delivery room and Avery shares my mom's birthday. He spent 8 days in the NICU due to low blood sugar and oxygen levels. But he was released healthy from the hospital on 3/2.

He loves being cuddled and sleeping in/on someone and loves to eat. Everyone who has met or seen Avery comments that he looks like his dad.



Richard's Letter to his New Grandchild



Thursday, February 24, 2022

Dear Avery Michael,

Last year your father told me you were going to be born. From that day to this morning I prayed the rosary for you every day, asking God grant you the same health and happiness he has gifted me.

Yesterday, I was in Arizona when I woke up.

I said a rosary for you, your parents, the Riel family, our extended family, my Citadel classmates and America.

As I drove back I encountered snow, rain, hail, strong winds, rainbows and the ever present beauty of America. I thanked God for the beauty and the joy of serving him. As I drove through the majesty of nature displaying her many facets I never imagined what could possibly be better than this. I did not realize this was a prelude to your entrance into the physical world of today.



Welcome to life. I, like life, am a gift from God to you. Together with your father we will all grow old and die. During that time we will serve God and America.

I believe life begins when you were severed from my daughter, your mother. I can now allow myself to think of you as my grandson who shares the joy of living as a free man in the Republic of America.

God has promised you a life of health and happiness and has given you free will. It is up to you to live your life and accept his gifts. In order to be healthy and happy you will endure pain and suffering. You cannot have highs if you have no lows. Whenever life challenges you remember these words, "Pain is weakness leaving the Body." Remember the pain for it is the tuition you must pay for the strength that overcoming it will give you.

You are a gift from God and your life will begin another thread in the tapestry of life.



You are the latest male Riel of a clan that has created patriots and citizens in and of the Republic of America for over two centuries.

The difference between a patriot and a citizen is: the patriot has the duty to kill on behalf of our Republic; while a citizen has the honor to serve it. Whether you are a patriot or a citizen our clan believes you must always respect your fellow man as your equal.

Your great, great grandfather was named Frank James Riel. He was a Marine; he served with General Pershing in WWI. Your grandfather, Frank Riel

and his brother James Riel were sent to The Citadel, The Military College of South Carolina. He sent them to a school that has been producing principled Citizen Soldiers for the Republic of America since 1842. James Riel graduated in 1939 was commissioned in the newly created Army Air Force. He flew bombing missions over Germany. Your grandfather graduated in 1941 and was commissioned in the Army. His service spanned two wars and included top secret work in the development of America's bio warfare arsenal. They both did their duty and served their country honorably.

I started with a dream that someday I would be president of America. Toward that end I started my life knowing my career path involved graduating from The Citadel. Graduating from that school is an honor that imposes a duty. A life of honor is lived if you do not lie, cheat or steal, nor tolerate those actions



in others. Duty is your conscious decision to uphold your honor. Living is deciding how to be honorable while doing your duty.

Yesterday with the announcement of your birth, I told your father that I have enrolled you at The Citadel for the graduating class of "2044." Your father was enrolled when he was born, by Rick Cox a man of vision and courage who exemplified "The Citadel Man."

Your father made a decision that The Citadel was not where he wanted to go. I have always respected that decision. Your decision to go, or not go, is your choice. Don't do it for me, do because your dreams require it. I will respect and support your decision regardless, because I love you.

You and I are one day older as I write this. While this is your second day on earth I have been alive for 27,177 days. You are young and I am old. Your life is beginning and mine begins anew with your birth. The birth of your father reset my life as will yours.

Your great grandfather told me, he was alive when the Wright brothers flew at Kitty Hawk and he watched on television as John Glen walked on the moon all in his lifetime. He asked me to imagine what I would experience in my life time. I challenge you with his words.

Together with your father we will share the experience of living in a world that is getting better every day we live. If you ever doubt the truth of these words, you are the proof.

I have faith that you will have a life filled with hope and love.

God Bless you for making me young again,

your grandfather known to others as richin-spirit





Margaret's 72nd Birthday

The best thing about my 72nd birthday party is that it was normal. No masks, no 6-foot distances, and very little fear. I had a lovely birthday lunch cooked by my Megan with some assistance from Michael, while waiting to eat, I was entertained by my granddaughters. It doesn't get much better than that. Addy was ready to help blow out the candles. She got her second covid shot on my birthday, her first was on her birthday last month. She is so happy to have this protection.

Emily made me a pop-up birthday card showing Emily and me playing soccer with Bud in the background announcing the plays and referring (He is giving me a red card since taking the ball from Emily (blue skirt) was challenging). Emily is about to make one of her many goals. Addy is picking flowers avoiding the rough and tumble play.

A heartfelt thanks for the birthday wishes, and calls--they are all very treasured!



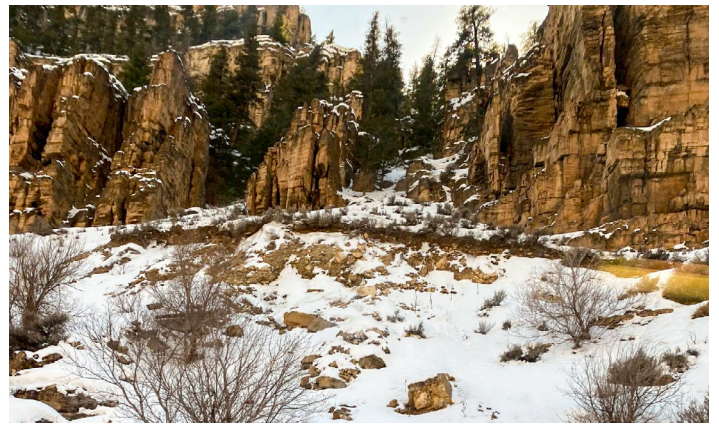


Train Trip through the Rocky Mountains

Sometimes a weekend away is just what your soul needs to get recharged. Lyle planned a Thursday through Sunday train trip so that he could show me the Rocky Mountains in the wintertime. Lyle made it sound like such a cool adventure that our dear friends, the Pantons, decided to join us on this jaunt through the cold.

We boarded a plane in San Diego and zoomed to Denver while the sun was setting. We stayed at the Crawford, which is in downtown Denver, situated above the railroad station. It was the perfect spot because we just needed to come downstairs in the morning and step onto our train. We had dinner in the hotel and enjoyed a comfortable night's stay in this cosmopolitan spot.





Early the next morning we got some coffee and treats from the local bakery. Yum! We feasted on them while standing amongst our luggage while we waited for our train to disembark. "Choo, Choo, all aboard!" could be heard throughout the station. So, we got on the train and found our sleeper cars. We were in connecting rooms and it was fun to sit and enjoy the sights while we chugga chugged along. All your meals are free when you are on the train. So, we ate lunch in the dining car while we enjoyed the sights.

The all-time favorite of this trip was sitting at the viewing tables, playing cards with the Pantons while we watched the wintery world speed by. The views were gorgeous the entire trip, but the Rockies certainly had the most appeal. We saw majestic bald eagles soaring in the sky. We saw giant elk trying to trudge their way through the piles of snow. We saw herds of mule deer prancing about like they were listening to John Denver singing, "Rocky Moun-



tain High." It was fun to yell out whenever there was a wild animal sighting. At one point, Rex, yelled out, "Elephant!" Everyone looked expectantly up and then laughed at the outrageous thought.

We spent two full days on that train going through Denver, Utah, Nevada, and then back to Sacramento, California. We spent our last night in Sacramento enjoying dinner at Mayahuel. It was a tequila museum and restaurant where you don't just drink tequila, but you experienced tequila. At least, that is what they boasted. We loved the food but most of all, we loved the company we were with. Holly and Rex made this trip so much richer in friendship and great companionship. If you ever dream of a train ride, you just need to talk to Lyle. He is always filled with great ideas and has visions of future train travels.



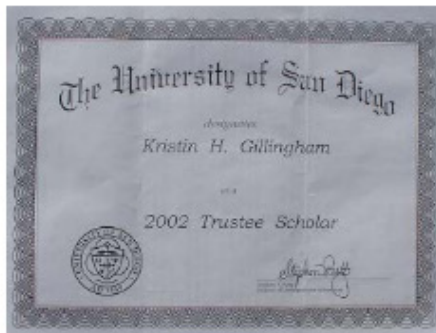
Riel History From The Past

The Riel Family Newsletter

Catch the News

March 2002

Kristy wins scholarship at USD



Dad

Here's the information we have on Kristy. We're not sure if she'll go there, but we're thrilled to see her be recognized for her outstanding efforts. Listy

We have some additional information from Listy on their recent visit to Palm Springs, as follows.

On the bike ride we had Kristy, Listy, Shawn (Kristy's boyfriend), and David all ride in the Tour de Palm springs, a 25 mile bike ride. Bob decided to outdo us all by riding 100 miles. It was his first "century" ride and he was very happy with his race. Bob's next event will be the "challenged athletes" 1/2 Iron Man race. He will swim 1 mile, bike 56 miles, and run a 1/2 marathon. Now we know who's really crazy! That's all for now! Listy

Thanks for the news, Listy, and most of all **congratulations** to Kristy! We are proud of your accomplishments, and look forward to more in your coming college career.

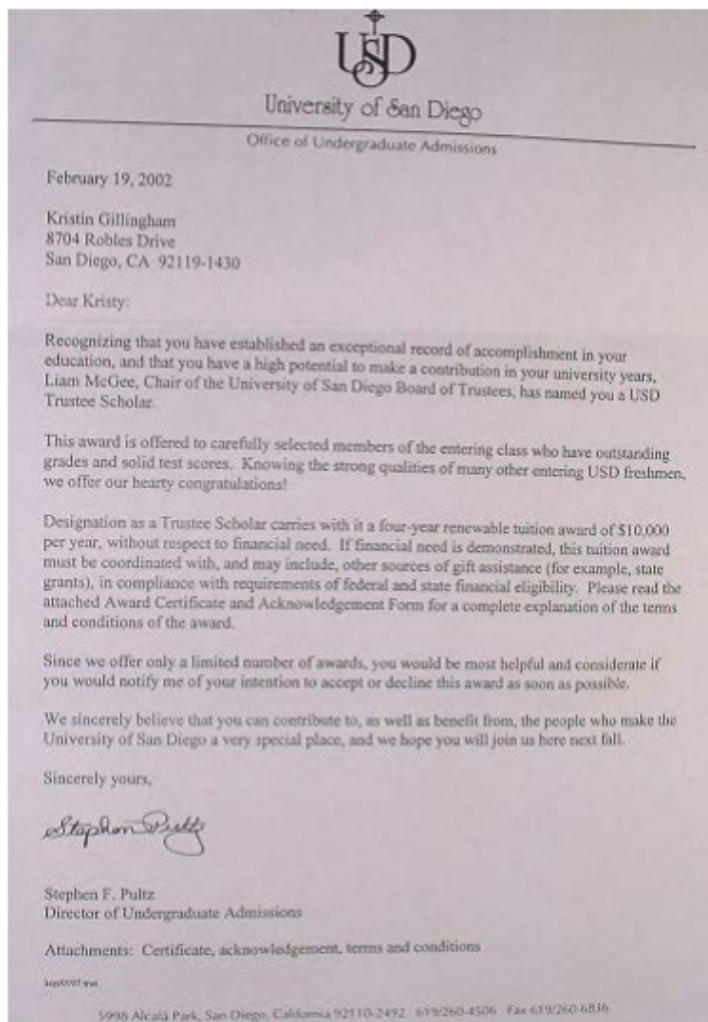
Ed Riel working on new tomato growing concept

Ed recently unveiled to us his new tomato growing concept, the Terrific Tomato Tube. He



wants to develop a concept that reduces the frequency of watering and also provides some height, so that as the plant matures

the branches will not be spread out across the ground. The lower chamber is filled with water, and it soaks upward, keeping the plants continuously watered. Thus far he has experienced some minor technical problems with leakage at the bottom seal. Once they are overcome the testing can begin. Like all good scientific experiments we have controls planted in a pail, and we will be following the progress of the experiment with periodic photographs. Watch for more news as the season progresses.



The Riel Family Newsletter

Catch the News

March, 2007

Condo Bathroom remodeling finished (almost) – Ed and Bob do great job

Robert does electrical installations, Chris and Kevin help out with heavy lifting, tile work etc.

Last October the big remodeling project took off, and in the February RFNL we reported on the completion of the first task, the 2nd bathroom tub. Work was started at once on the master bathroom task. We experienced a number of problems which we pass on to you for future reference. We ordered, from Expo, both tubs at the same time, but instructed them to hold the second one pending our instructions. In spite of that, the second one arrived early. However, when Grandma saw it she didn't like it, so we were able to return it without a fee, and correct the choice. We also ordered from Expo nearly \$3800.00 worth of cabinetry, with a 30 day delivery date. We checked several times, and were told that it was on schedule. On the day before the due date we checked again and were told that they had forgotten to place the order. We promptly cancelled, and the next day we ordered the same items from Dixieline, costing \$1700.00. They promised 3 to 4 weeks delivery, but the order arrived in one week. After 3 weeks they called to tell us it had arrived. The lesson is: don't be satisfied with a statement that the item due date is as promised. Ask for a tracking number, which the supplier issues to the shipper (FEDEX, UPS, etc) when the order is ready to ship. Once you have this number you can track progress directly with the carrier, on the internet.

Some does and don'ts: Plumbing suppliers have a number of finishes they can apply to their products. Chrome is often the cheapest and most available. Other finishes are unique for each supplier. Just because he has several different finishes doesn't mean that every item he sells is available in all finishes. Also, if you want something he does not make (bathroom lamps, for example) you may have a hard time finding a close match.

For difficult plumbing jobs hire a plumber. If you are doing plumbing in a multi dwelling unit, put a sign on the shut off valve to be sure no one turns it on without your knowledge.

Floor and wall tiles are available in many, many sizes, shapes, and colors. Once you choose a style record the item number so you can buy more of the same, if needed. Be prepared to

cope with lots of trash. Torn up drywall and wall and floor tiles require a trip to the dump. Every shipped item is packaged in lots of cardboard boxes, which can go in the recycle trash can, but they require lots of capacity.

The internet is extremely helpful in exploring the thousands of items in each of the many categories of interest. Product identity and price comparisons can be made prior to a decision.

We took many pictures during the work, and a few are shown, as follows.



Listy Injured at School Volleyball Game

Has Surgery to Repair Broken Bones

Listy and her fellow instructors at De Portola Middle school had accepted a challenge from their students to compete in a volleyball game. The game was set for Wednesday, March 7th at 5:00pm. During the game Listy had just finished digging one out of the net and setting up her fellow instructor when he (the instructor, no names, too many pink slips going around schools these days) tripped and flew head first into her left knee.

The impact was so hard that it not only knocked Listy to the ground but caused severe pain in her knee. She was not able to get up and in fact, started to show signs of going into shock. The paramedics were called, but Listy would have none of that (not in front of the students... never show signs of weakness). She was helped up (keeping all weight off her knee) and driven to Kaiser Hospital.



After some x-rays and doctor consultations, Listy was informed that the collision had caused the femur to split the tibia and to break the fibula. She was admitted, and at 11:00 am on Thursday she went into the OR where they attached a titanium plate to her tibia. It was a bit sensitive, as the break travelled into the joint, and they needed to ensure everything was well aligned to prevent arthritis. Fortunately the surgery went very well and the doctor thinks that Listy will make a full recovery.

Listy was up and walking (with a walker) on Friday and was able to come home on Sunday. The best news was that she will be able to run again. Unfortunately it will take some time (three months) before she is allowed to put any weight on her knee and she most likely will miss a month of work.

But as Grandpa Frank told Listy in the hospital, "I know it hurts today, but tomorrow it will feel better and it will feel even better the next day." We all wish Listy a speedy recovery and hope she gets back to running soon.



FAMILY SHORTS



Rich and Liz were in New Orleans during the last week of February enjoying some post Mardi Gras festivities along with a few thousand other people whom just happened to be visiting at the same time. But rather than hanging around too long in all that madness they went on a Mexican cruise with some of their closer friends and enjoyed the peaceful seas off the coast of our neighbor to the south.



Madeline Benesch turned 1 year old this month and the Benesch family had a small family party to mark the occasion. Grandpa Jeff and Grandma Carol were especially happy to be able to enjoy a day with their oldest son's family. Carol took plenty of pictures and posted them on face book so be sure to check them out soon!



All right, so what the heck is going on here?? We know that Brice proposed to Bridget back in October of 2015 so why does it look like he is doing the same thing again? We've heard of renewing vows but renewing a proposal? Is that what happened here and if so, why? Well to get the full scoop you will have to click on the following link and find out for yourself:

<http://www.hudsonriverblue.com/2017/3/14/14917904/nycfc-scavenger-hunt-winner-dc-united-chicken-bucket-proposal>