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Issue No: 382











RFNL November 2022 Page 2

























RFNL November 2022 Page 3



RFNL November 2022 Page 4

















- An exclusive interview by Ed Riel

Hi Family

I am Avery; Avery Michael Riel to be exact. On the Riel side of my family, I am the first born of the first born which is why I am the first in this series of RFNL interviews of the Great Grand Generation of the San Diego Riels. I was born 8 months ago so obviously I am speaking to you through my interviewer; the bearded Great Uncle Ed. (I hope he doesn't mess it up)

I just love my crib and my room, yes, I have my own room. Freshly painted and ready for my artful graffiti as soon as I can walk and hold something. I also have a large living and eating room with a wellmaintained smooth hardwood floor; perfect for running and screaming as soon as I become proficient in both. But for now, my mom and dad, who call themselves Sam and Frank, seem to know when and where to pick me up and move me around, but they seem little pleased when I chew on these squared cornered objects, they give me with flimsy paper in between. Even so we have a pattern going as they move me to sleep, play, eat and change my clothing, I guess, this is what is referred to as family life.

But get this. When we play or eat (almost the same thing) my parents have this strange habit of fully tilting their heads one way and back the other. I find this very funny and can't help but laugh. So that they don't feel offended by my mirth I mimic their crazy head movements and it gets them to also laugh. Fun.

But speaking about eating, so far it is mostly good, but take it from me, tell your mothers to skip the green beans! Besides that aversion, I can't say I have any favorites; really, how many things are we supposed to remember anyway?





Though I do remember that we just went to a place called the pumpkin patch; that was cool, and before that we took a long drive to see all of you at something called a birthday party; bunch of little people eating food that made them happy, loud, and very active. There should be more of those. The only problem was the long drive because I am strapped in! I want to jump around! What would it hurt?

Normally though, I like the car, because we take short drives to Granny Liz's house or my mother's parents' home, (Karin & Roy Davis). They are fun people. I also like moms' brother, Nicko who, with Morisa, have a 2-year-old, Robin, who I play with. And Uncle Tyler and Joshuas; and great aunts Susan. PJ and Malinda; and all of you!

Finally in this exhausting interview is the question that all of you great grandkids will, in your turn, be asked: What question would you like to ask of the older generations? For me I cannot help but notice, and sincerely enjoy, how smiling and happy everyone is around me all the time, is that real life, or am I missing something?

You can reach me through my Mom and Dad

Happy head tilting to all-

Avery

From the 2008, October Edition, of the Riel Family Newsletter

Frank "JJ" celebrates 18th birthday at Applebees – Richard at El Torito

There were two birthday celebrations recently, one for JJ and one for Richard. In addition to the regular things Liz brought in two interesting photos. The first one, taken in Columbia, S. C. on November 10, 1948, almost 40 years ago, is of Grandpa's father, Frank J. Riel, Sr. The second one, of course, is of JJ. This photo is not dated, but it must be about 15 years ago. The only thing missing, for JJ, is the hat.



Braeden Keith Honored for Being PROACTIVE!

By Listy Gillingham





Braeden was recognized at Jarabek Elementary for being Proactive at school on Oct. 27, 2022. This is the school's first Leader In Me Habit where students are choosing to have a good attitude; stopping and thinking about desired results before they say or do anything; taking initiative and doing their best without needing to be told; and focusing on the things that they can control.

The ceremony was held in the courtyard and parents (Seamus represented the Keith family) and grandparents (Bob and Listy proudly came as well) were invited to attend. We were doubly impressed because not only was Braeden getting an award but because he was on the student council, he was selected to help lead the assembly with two other classmates. It was quite the thrill to see the microphone in his hands as he introduced teachers who announced each award from their classes. Braeden's teacher wrote to Kristy when inviting her to the assembly:

"Also, I know that I've already mentioned it before, but I absolutely LOVE Braeden. He is the BEST kid ever! He is such a hard-working, conscientious student and always tries his best. I am so thankful that he is in my class this year! He is definitely a bright light in our class!"

Congratulations Braeden! We are proud of you!

Robert Joins The Sheriff's Senior Volunteer Patrol Program

The Senior Volunteer Patrol (SVP) is designed to draw upon the experience of citizens in our community, tapping a tremendous resource, and developing it as an asset to the Sheriff's Department. As such, SVP personnel provide valuable assistance in areas where previous manpower allocations would not allow full attention.

So above is the official description of the SVP program. But in a nutshell, it really is about helping out a community, in my case Alpine. To the right is a list containing the many tasks we perform which in turn, allows the sheriff's deputies to do more important things like be on patrol and available to help others. I am not interested in being a law enforcement element. I just want to help the members of my community, where I can.

I think of all the duties we do the YANA (you are not alone) program is my favorite. This program allows individuals who really have no one to visit them or make sure they are OK a way to still feel connected and secure even though they may be living alone. Individuals will sign up and we will call and/or visit them several times a week,

just to make sure they are doing well. I really enjoy talking with them and they are always so appreciative of us stopping by to see them. Our program also directs them to additional resources if the need arises. Additionally, this week were able to notify all of them that they would receive a Thanksgiving Day lunch, delivered directly to their home at no charge. You can imagine how uplifting that can be from someone who is all alone.

So next time you see the "old folks" in the white volunteer car give 'em a wave and say thanks, because they are donating time so others can benefit.



SVP Duties

- Assist Crime Prevention with public presentations.
- Patrol in vehicles clearly marked as part of the SVP.
- YANA Checks (You Are Not Alone)
- Vacation house checks.
- Enforcing disabled parking regulations only
- Providing citizen assistance (such as information, directions and community resource, etc.).
- Assisting in traffic control.
- Assisting at crime scenes perimeter control.
- Assisting on any emergency or disaster as needed.
- Marking and assisting in abating, unattended or abandoned vehicles.
- Other assigned jobs or services as needed.
- Vehicle transport





Margaret Riel went to her 50-year homecoming at the University of California, San Diego last month. They inducted her class into the fraternity of Golden Tritons. Of course, they are hoping that their contribution to education will translate into gold for them. But it was fun seeing young faces transformed into old ones.



Today is a very big day for the Rios family. Today is the day Jessica and I open the doors at Lotus River Studio, LLC, a Yoga and traditional Japanese Karate school in Metuchen, NJ.

This has been the plan since the doors at my dojo in Bayonne, Karatedo Shurenkan, closed its doors in 2017. However, life had other plans. Injuries, work, family life, and a global pandemic brought new challenges and delays. Despite it all, we have endured, and the result is a wondrous space where we aspire to share the many benefits that yoga and karate can bring. We welcome all to be a part of it.