



2010



Hello Everybody

2010 has been a year of firsts - Scott's first year married, Steven's first year on active duty and the first full year of my retirement,

The year's big news is that Scott is now married. He and Rikke Rasmussen were married in a civil ceremony at the San Francisco Courthouse on 7 September. The upper picture on this card was taken just after the ceremony. Needless to say the wedding was a bit of a surprise. They met a couple of weeks earlier while they were both preparing for Burning Man. I got to meet her when they both came east to pick up the airplane and fly it back. The main complication is that she is from Denmark, and was in the country on a short term visa. After the wedding she went home for several weeks, and then came back on a tourist visa. They will both go back to Denmark before Christmas and start the process to get her permanent residence in this country. The waiting time for a green card is significantly shortened when you start the process in the originating country. Their address is 360 5th St. Studio 25, San Francisco, CA. 94107.

Steven spent the bulk of the year at Ft Bragg. I made two trips down there. In March it was to help set up his apartment. In November it was to attend his promotion ceremony . Eighteen months to the day after graduation he became a First Lieutenant (the bottom picture on this card). In addition to being promoted he has a new assignment. He is now the leader of one of the largest parachute rigging platoons in the Army. He called me with the realization that any 82nd Airborne Division activity starts with his platoon. He has 95 soldiers (it is understaffed!). He is replacing a lieutenant who is deploying, so I assume he will go "down range" next year. Until then his address is 2801 Compass Court Apt 203, Fayetteville, NC 28307.

As for me, retirement meant dealing with snow, finishing the garage rebuilding, and a cross country trip to Houston, via Atlanta & New Orleans; returning via Austin & Memphis. Last winter Arlington had a record snowfall. I'm sure you heard about it - there were stories in all the papers ;) For me, other than theater and dance cancelations, it was a surprising non-event. Not only did I not have to go to work, but also Glebe road remained passable throughout all three storms. Once the weather improved I got back to work on the garage. With Steven's help on a couple of the really heavy items, I finished the front wall, to include new doors. For the first time since "Scotty" demolished the walk in door bottom with his Big Wheels, I have a fully functional walk in door with a lock. Since then I have been working on cleaning up the back room in preparation for finally finishing it. I am finding things I haven't seen in years.

The last event for the year was a two week road trip. Lucinda and I went to Atlanta to attend her grand-twins first birthday. Then to New Orleans where we obtained a room with one of those wrought iron balconies on Bourbon Street. Next we drove to Houston, spent time with Pete, Susan, Fran and Jacob (Pete's first grandchild) and spent a day at Rice's Homecoming where Lucinda's son Justin received the Rice Engineering Alumni Outstanding Young Alumnus Award. The next stop was Austin where we attended wedding and had lunch with Shirley, Brad & Bryn. Finally on the way back we stopped in Memphis and visited Graceland. This last stop was to accompany Lucinda. (It certainly was NOT on my bucket list :)

Unfortunately it was a bad year for pets. Foofie, the cat Dayna asked me to keep for "a couple of weeks" back in the 90's, started having problems Labor Day of last year. Despite having paralyzed back legs, he would scoot around the house and scold me when I was late with his dinner. In February he passed away overnight during one of the big snow storms. Cleo, our Lab Rescue from Christmas 95, started having problems a couple of years ago. We suspected tumors, and followed "keep her comfortable" treatments. In September it became time to end her suffering. In the mean time, I have acquired two more pets. I am keeping Penny, Scott's collie-husky cross, "for a little while" ;). I also took in Hobbes, a six year old, overweight orange fat cat. Lucinda's new son-in-law is allergic to cats, so I chose to save him from the pound.

Only in the age of the internet: I met Porky's former fiancé. It started with the Alabama Heritage Magazine commissioning an article on Alabama's Historical Airports. They asked me to contribute a picture of Porky. The article had the statement that Porky had been engaged to a Miss Jean Martin while in flight training at Selma. I had never known about her. Dad had contacted her after Porky had been shot down in WWII. He also met her when he visited Craig Air Force Base. I got in touch with her. Lucinda and I visited her during our October road trip. We had lunch and she let me scan some pictures from that time. She would have made a great aunt. I plan to keep in touch with her.

Related there to, I learned that I could request a memorial stone be placed in Arlington Cemetery for Porky. I did and the stone is in Section K #203, near the Iwo Jima Memorial entry to the Cemetery. From a guest book entry in his memorial page, I discovered that there is a Cragg Drive in the housing area on Kadena Air Force Base, Okinawa. A local LtCol has offered to investigate the road's history for me. More to come on this next year.

And that was it for this year.

I hope everyone has a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

**SEASON'S
GREETINGS**

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