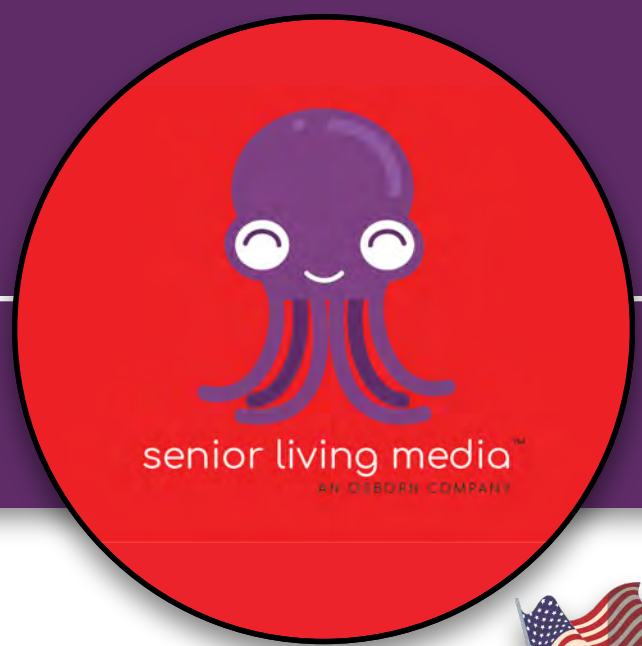


# Resident Tales

Stories by Residents, for Residents

Issue #14

Friday, May 29, 2020



## Memory Lane

### **Pets Are Precious Memories**

*submitted by Bill O., Dacula, GA*

Isn't this little guy something?

You can see the sweet mischievousness in that baby face.

I found this picture on Facebook this morning.

It reminded me of when Sam was a puppy and we rented a cabin up on the river in Ellijay, in the fall 8 years ago.

I let Sam get in the river and he played for the longest time, splashing and jumping around.

He was having the time of his life, and so was I, simply watching from the riverbank.

When it was time for us to go back to the cabin, I called and called for him to return, but Sam just wasn't having it.

That little rascal would not come out of the river.

Eventually, I had to wade in and get him.

What a happy memory.

*(continued on back)*

### Send Us Your Tales!

We are excited that you are sharing your memories and stories with us! Keep 'em coming!

You can submit them via email at [stories@seniorlivingmedia.com](mailto:stories@seniorlivingmedia.com), or give them to your Community Activity Professional to send to us!

Make sure to put your first name and last initial along with city and state that you live in!



### Today's Riddle:

What has a bottom at the top?

*(Answer on page 8)*

# MORE MEMORIES

The older I get, the more I realize how important it

is for each of us to spend our lives making precious memories.



\*\*\*\*\*

Good Old Kitah peacefully passed away this afternoon, asleep on my bed. The old boy, 20 years, five months and 28 days, put up a hard fight. I expected him to pass over 10 days ago.

I buried him out in the garden spot, in the sun, which I'm sure he will appreciate.

Kitah was always lying in a sunny spot.....

I've never been a cat guy.

Kitah was my one and only cat.

I bought him for my daughter when she was just five years old, because, well, that's what dads do.

Then daughters grow up and move away, and you discover that suddenly you are a cat guy.

If you have never owned a Siamese cat, well, let's just say that they are talkers. (Like, all the time.)

"Where the hell have you been??"

"Feed Me!!!"

"Play with me!"

"Leave me alone!"

Etc., etc.,

They are fiercely loyal to their human(s), and they hate just about everyone else.

They also have a severe dose of attitude.

I could tell you a million stories, but I'll limit it to a couple.

The cat loved to hide in the bathroom shower.

Just as you got comfortable on the throne, he would burst through the shower curtain and give you a near heart attack.

I'll never forget the day that I searched the house, top to bottom for nearly 12 hours, looking for him. I checked all of his usual hiding places, but Kitah was nowhere to be found. And then, out of the corner of my eye, I saw something move in the laundry room.

He'd been on top of the fridge hiding in a laundry basket all day.

One of his proudest accomplishments was last year when I was remodeling and painting the bathrooms.

I came out of the hall bathroom and into the living room carrying a paint pan with a roller and a half gallon of paint.....

Kitah tripped me, on purpose.....

Blue paint, beige carpet, living room.....

Gift bags, Christmas trees, chairs, anything was fair game....

*(continued on page 3)*

# MORE MEMORIES

Kitah destroyed my suede recliner, an expensive one....

Shredded it with his claws, and was proud of it.

He was banned from our local vet for attacking and injuring the doctor and two employees.

Even though he was a little pistol, I am going to miss him terribly.

I know that his old pal, Cleburne, is waiting for him, along with Bun Bun. They are welcoming him across the rainbow bridge.

So long, little buddy.

Kitah, you were a little pistol, right up until the very end.

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## **"Ode to Little Joe"**

*submitted by Arlie S., Astoria, OR*

A baby was born

Little Joe is his name

With Sandy and Jeff Saunders\*

To the "Jack Shoe" he came

Great Granddaddy was as proud as could be

He said, "Go fetch a horse,

Here's a new cowboy for me!"

He picked up "Little Joe" and slung him under arm

Then paced to the window to show "Joe" the horse barn

"Button, that's where you start if you cowboy for me,

on this Jack Shoe Ranch no worky-no-eaty"

Little Joe, the young and sly one,

Up at dear Granddaddy did he gaze

He let out a big burp, and brought a smile on his face!

To keep little Joe warm, Granny had just the thing,

Granddaddy's new quilt- spanking new just last spring.

Joe slurped down his bottle,

Settled down in the dark

Come morning, the quilt bore a young cowboys high water mark

Now the moral of this story

Is quite plain to see

"Do not unto young cowboys,

Lest they do unto thee"

*A message from Arlie:*

*Little Joe is now a grown man and has a son of his own. He works in one of the Copper mines in AZ. He read the poem I had written over 20 years ago and said he loves it.*

*\*name changed for privacy*

# MORE MEMORIES

## **Macon Remembers Native son Little Richard**



The passing of Little Richard on Saturday, May 9, hit Macon, Georgia especially hard.

“It’s a sad day for our city and the entire music industry as we mourn the passing of Little Richard,” Macon Mayor Robert Reichert’s posted on Facebook, “His influence on music and our community was enormous, and is still felt today.”

Little Richard lived in the 1960s, a glitter rock era with his non-binary gender appearance, which included the liberal use of eyeliner, exaggerated pompadour, a pencil mustache, and flamboyant costumes. However, it was his piano-pounding playing style and screaming vocals that influenced music legends like Mick Jagger and David Bowie.

“Without Little Richard, myself and half of my contemporaries wouldn’t be playing music.” David Bowie said in a 1991 interview.

Born in 1932, Little Richard was the third of 12 children born to a Seventh-Day Adventist deacon, who supplemented his income selling moonshine. This was according to his biographer, Charles White, who wrote *The Life and Times of Little Richard* in 2003.

Like many, Little Richard started in gospel music, singing with his siblings in church until he was forced to leave home at the age of 14. In

1951, at age 18, he won a talent contest in Atlanta that led to him singing on with RCA Victor and recording four albums. In 1955, he got his big break at the Dew Drop Inn in New Orleans when he sat down at an old, upright piano, and performed a song he wrote called “Tutti Frutti”. In the next two years he recorded *Long Tall Sally*, *Good Golly Miss Molly* and *Keep a Knockin’*. He played to sold-out audiences, but, when Specialty Records wouldn’t release him from his contract, he left music, renounced rock n’ roll, and followed in his grandfather’s footsteps as a Seventh-Day Adventist preacher.

He returned to music as a gospel singer in 1959, but reverted to rock ‘n’ roll in 1962 when he toured England as the opening act for The Beatles, The Everly Brothers, and an up-and-coming band called The Rolling Stones.

Little Richard was inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in 1986, the Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award in 1993, the Songwriters Hall of Fame in 2003, and the Blues Hall of Fame in 2015.

The Macon-Bibb Community Enhancement Authority and Georgia Department of Transportation saved the small, shotgun-style home on Fifth Avenue where Little Richard grew up and moved it a mile away to Craft Street in the Vineville Historic District, not far from the Allman Brothers Band Museum at the Big House.

“The Little Richard House is not only a tourist destination, it is leading the revitalization of his former neighborhood. Little Richard will be sorely missed around the world by many people, and in our community, his legacy will live on in music and good works.” said Mayor Reichert.

# RESIDENT POETRY

Another day's here  
It's the same old boring thing

Go covid nineteen

*- Jane S., Fayetteville, Ga*

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The pandemic came.  
Now masks and no hugging  
Are ruling life's game.

*- Victoria L. Towson, MD*

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One Brazen Squirrel  
Emptying out a bird feeder  
Done in a whirl.

*-Rich*

Better be ready:  
'Tis the season after snow.  
Color me green now.

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How tall the trees are  
and so many shades of green  
in front of blue sky.

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People to and fro?  
Stay away COVID Nineteen.  
Freedom is coming!

*Robert M., Gainesville, VA*







## Did you Know?

### Facts About Memorial Day



#### There is a Grave 'Adoption'

There is an American military cemetery in Margraten, Netherlands. On Memorial Day each year, every last grave is "adopted" by a Dutch family that lays flowers over the site.

#### Memorial Day wasn't celebrated on the "last Monday in May" until relatively recently.

When General Logan officially launched the holiday, he called for it to be observed on May 30. After the Uniform Monday Holiday Act took effect in 1971, it was moved to the final Monday in May.

#### It's customary for the U.S. president or vice president to give a speech.

Traditionally, the speech is delivered at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery.



Originally, only soldiers who had died in the Civil War were honored.

After WWI, the holiday began to encompass members of the American armed forces who had fallen in any conflict.

#### Flags Are Placed on Every Grave in Arlington National Cemetery.

On the Thursday before Memorial Day every year since the 1950s, soldiers of the 3rd Infantry Division uphold the tradition of "Flags in", where they place an American flag on each grave in Arlington National Cemetery within a four hour time span.

There are over 400,000 graves at Arlington National Cemetery and once the flags have been placed, they patrol around the clock through Memorial Day to ensure each flag remains aloft. Each flag is then removed before the cemetery opens on the morning after Memorial Day.





## Did you Know?

### Facts About Arlington National Cemetery

**Arlington National Cemetery is located on Confederate General Robert E. Lee's confiscated estate.**

Days after resigning from the U.S. Army on April 20, 1861, Robert E. Lee left the Arlington estate where he had married Mary Lee and lived for 30 years. He would never return.

After Virginia seceded from the Union on May 23, 1861, Union troops crossed the Potomac River from the national capital and occupied the 200-acre property and house that been built by Mary's father. In 1864, after Mary Lee - confined to a wheelchair - sent a representative instead of appearing personally to pay a \$92.07 tax bill, the government seized the property. With Washington, D.C., teeming with dead soldiers and out of burial space, General Montgomery C. Meigs formally proposed Arlington as the location of a new military cemetery.

**The cemetery hosted the first national Memorial Day commemoration in 1868.**

In 1868, General John A. Logan, commander-in-chief of the Grand Army of the

Republic, officially proclaimed May 30 as Decoration Day "for the purpose of strewing with flowers or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion." The first national commemoration took place at Arlington on May 30, 1868, with General Ulysses S. Grant in attendance and General James Garfield as the featured speaker. Decoration Day was eventually renamed Memorial Day.

**Arlington is the only national cemetery to hold service members from every war in U.S. history.**

Although the first military burial at Arlington National Cemetery didn't occur until 1864, the burial ground holds the remains of those who fought in every war since the American Revolution.

**There may never be another addition to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.**

Among the 5,000 unknowns entombed at Arlington are the unidentified remains of World War I, World War II, and Korean War servicemen buried at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. An unknown from the Vietnam War was entombed in 1984, but the remains were exhumed in 1998, positively identified by DNA testing as those of Air Force First Lieutenant Michael Joseph Blassie and moved to a military cemetery in Missouri. Advancements in DNA testing may mean that all future remains will be able to be positively identified and no future interments at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier will occur.

# FUN, FUNNY, & DOWNRIGHT INTERESTING

## POP CULTURE

In **1975**, after a story in Newsweek and an appearance on The Tonight Show, a million **pet rocks** sold for \$3.95 a piece.



### DID YOU KNOW???

#### The Letter Z Was Removed from the Alphabet for 200 Years!

It's hard to imagine an alphabet that doesn't include A, Z, and every other letter in between. However, around 300 BC, the Roman censor Appius Claudius Caecus had the letter Z removed from the alphabet due to the fact that it wasn't used that much. The letter S was also nixed and the letter G was added. It took another 200 years for Z to make its way back to the end of the alphabet.



### ON THIS DAY...

#### May 21, 1927

After taking off from New York the previous day, Charles Lindbergh in the Spirit of Saint Louis landed near Paris, making it the first solo air crossing over the Atlantic.

#### May 22, 1985

"A View to Kill", the fourteenth James Bond movie, starring Roger Moore as James Bond, premiered in 1985 at the Palace of Fine Arts in San Francisco.

#### May 23, 1940

"I'll Never Smile Again" was recorded by Frank Sinatra and Tommy Dorsey and the Pied Pipers. The song was the first #1 hit on the weekly Billboard Best Selling Singles chart. Since then, it has been a popular standard for many artists in a variety of genres.



**Riddle Answer:**

Your legs!



# EVEN MORE FUN, FUNNY, & DOWNRIGHT INTERESTING



## DID YOU KNOW???

More People Tuned Into Prince Charles and Princess Diana's Wedding Than for the Friends, Cheers, Seinfeld, and M\*A\*S\*H finales combined

Prince Harry and Meghan Markle's wedding amassed nearly 30 million viewers in the U.S. The 2019 Super Bowl brought in more than 98 million viewers. But Prince Charles and the late Princess Diana had 750 million people worldwide tune in to see them wed!



### May 24, 1830

One of the best known English nursery rhymes, Mary Had a Little Lamb, was first published today.

### May 25, 1830

The Walt Disney cartoon dog Goofy, aka Dippy Dawg, appeared for the first time today in 1932, it was with Mickey Mouse in the cartoon Mickey's Revue

### May 26th, 1907

Marion Mitchell Morrison, better known as the legendary actor John Wayne, "The Duke", was born today in in Iowa.

### May 27, 1930

The Art Deco-style skyscraper the Chrysler Building, an iconic New York landmark, opened today. It was the tallest building in the world until the Empire State Building opened about a year later.



# Try Your Hand at Haiku

There is a long tradition of poets finding inspiration in nature. It started with ancient Greek poetry and continues to this day. Spending time in nature can give you a sense of peace and inspire your next work of poetry.

A traditional Japanese haiku is a three-line poem with seventeen syllables, written in a 5/7/5 syllable count. Often focusing on images from nature, haiku emphasizes simplicity, intensity, and directness of expression. This month we are featuring Haiku as a writing exercise. Try your hand at writing one below and send it to us!

Here a sample one:

*An afternoon breeze  
expels cold air, along with  
the fallen brown leaves.*

**Send it to [stories@seniorlivingmedia.com](mailto:stories@seniorlivingmedia.com) to be chosen for upcoming issues!**

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## WE ARE LOOKING FOR YOUR FATHER'S DAY STORIES TO SHARE!

Do you have any funny or interesting stories from Father's Days' past? Funny stories about your father, or being a father?

Fact or fiction, funny or thoughtful , prose or poetry - now is the time for your voices to be heard and featured in an upcoming special issue that will coincide with our **Father's Day** activities later in the month! It can be solo writing or a group effort! It is up to you!



WRITE YOUR STORY OR MEMORY HERE, OR EMAIL IT TO: [stories@seniorlivingmedia.com](mailto:stories@seniorlivingmedia.com)