



December 2018

Dear Family and Friends,

Another year spent **Traveling and Learning** as our adventures continue. We spent last Christmas/New Year aboard Azamara Quest sailing from Miami to Barbados with various stops along the way. To our surprise, there was an old Concorde jet museum where we had a Gala Evening.



A Gala Evening at the Concorde Aircraft Museum in Bridgetown, Barbados

April saw Ken off to President Reagan's Ranch (Rancho del Cielo) in Santa Barbara. Ken worked as a Presidential Communications Trip Officer during President Reagan's Second Term of Office. The Young America's Foundation bought the ranch from Nancy Reagan in 1998 to assist her paying Ron's medical bills, and was celebrating the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the event.



In April, Ken visited President Reagan's Rancho del Cielo in Santa Barbara as a guest of the Young America's Foundation



Bill and Donna Hawco's Sailboat on the St John River in New Brunswick, Canada

During the Summer, we returned to Maine with a late lunch with Maggie & Rich Lane (AF friends we haven't seen in 10 years). Taking The Cat (a hydro foil boat) from Portland, Maine, to Yarmouth, Nova Scotia. After touring around, we visited New Brunswick and were hosted by Susan's cousins on the St John River.

In May we visited France, and took the MS River Venture cruising from Paris to Normandy. At Omaha Beach, Susan and Maridell were selected to join a group of Veterans laying a wreath at the Monument.



Susan and Maridell placing wreath on Omaha Beach Memorial



MS River Venture docked near the Eiffel Tower, Paris, France

While in Paris, our ship was docked near the Eiffel Tower, and during the trip visited Monet's Garden.



Monet's Garden in Giverny, France

September we circumnavigated Italy from Venice to Malta to Sicily to Rome. Malta being the country where Susan's Great Grand-Mother was born in 1862. We never thought of Malta (an EU country) a tourist attraction, but it is! It is a very compact country with a very high population density, no unemployment, and lots of history. A former British colony, during World War 2 it was an Allied Base of air operations and was heavily bombed.



Malta is a very compact country



MV Artemis ship doing an Italian/Sicily/Malta Coastal Odyssey



Susan, Maridell, and Bobbie on Gozo Island, Malta

Hope the Year was good to you - - we're off to Hawaii with friends to celebrate Christmas.

Peace and joy to all,

**Susan and Ken**

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