Merry Christmas Everyone and We wish you a Happy and Healthy New Year!

2020 is just around the corner and we have 5 Great Caravans lined up for you to enjoy this coming year. Check out page 9 and see more details on our website!

The **I GOT 1 Campaign has started!**

Recruit just one new member into SMART and get your free **I GOT 1** pin and be first in line at dinner during the National Muster in Oklahoma.

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The following members have recruited at least one new member and earned their “I GOT ONE” pin since National:

Jon Katin, Kevin Burns, Al Haynes, Terilu Christen, Nita Taylor, James Rodgers, Tom Slattery, Jeanette Duckworth, Sherwin Stielow, Carl Hopper, Keith Hardman, Jim Anderson, Roger Bruce

**Campground Ad Campaign**

also is underway....If you get 5 campgrounds to join our website campground ads agreement for $25 year you receive a **FREE SMART T Shirt**

so as you travel ask the campground owners if they would like to support SMART. Buying an ad for $25 a year gets them on our website with a link to their website and in our Electronic Bi-Monthly Traveler sent out to all our members. Go online and print out a Campground AD Agreement and give it to the campground and have them mail it to HQ with a check for $25. Don’t forget to put your name in the bottom corner of the agreement so I know who referred them.

We would like to congratulate our new SMART National President Paul Rider and wife Jean. We look forward to working with you this year.
From the desk of our New SMART National President

While fulltimers seek warmer weather and seasonal RVers hunker down for winter weather wherever they are, there is a strong temptation to think of the winter months as “down time” as far as RVing is concerned. That may be true to some extent for some of us, but I still remember our first years in SMART and the December muster with the SMART CATS … all our rigs were winterized, but we still made it to the December “Christmas” muster wherever it was in Southern Virginia, and we did it without compromising the winterization process, even when it meant standing in line in the cold for our quick turn in the RV park shower room! And yes, we were able to “use the facilities” with the help of gallon jugs of water refilled from the shore water tap as needed. Where there is a will, there is a way!

Those of us who are not fulltimers probably do RV a little less during the “winter” months than in the warmer months … or just restrict our travels to warmer climes!! … but for Jean & I this “off-season” time period normally is a time of planning for the next 12 months and getting in medical procedures deliberately scheduled to avoid our RV schedule. While taking a few short local RV adventures, we are looking at our calendar and balancing those anticipated medical procedures, family commitments, and the annual rig service … and figuring out how we can work our RVing activities into the gaps over the next 12 months.

As you plan for the next year of RVing, consider all the great caravan activities SMART has to offer. From 7 days for the National 4th of July Parade in Washington DC, to 15 days at the Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta, to 31 days in Kentucky, to 52 days on the Grand Frontier in the Western US, to 60 days in the Canadian Maritimes … from June to November there is a great variety of SMART Caravan choices at great prices. And if you have other ideas for great caravans, discuss it with National Travel Coordinator Jon Katin and see if we can put another caravan together for this year or next year.

And one day while you are online, take some time to explore the SMART website … there is a LOT there to explore!! Before you log in at www.smartrving.org, notice on the “home” page the link to donate a vehicle to benefit SMART. I am in the process of setting up a new toad, and because the dealer would not give me the cost of a set of new tires for my tired old Honda I plan to donate it … if you are able to itemize on your tax return, the deduction in my case will benefit me way more than the way low trade-in offer would! And help clean up your neighborhood … my neighbor is moving out, and at my suggestion a 1988 Mazda that has not been driven in 15 years is being donated along with several old lawn mowers and maybe a boat! One thing you can do after log in is read over our bylaws and standing rules (have you ever? …if not, you might find it interesting!). Explore some of the chapter websites and the many SMART musters & other events scheduled throughout the US , and take a few minutes to register for the 2020 National Muster in Shawnee OK. Online registration is quick and easy, and then you will be sure to be with us in Shawnee next September!!

We wish you all a Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

Paul Rider
SMART National President
SMART SURVEY

SMART members. At this year's National, a Membership Survey was passed out for the attending members to fill out. This survey will give us, the Membership and Publicity Committee, a look at where we need to help improve Recruiting & Retention. You can go to our website and fill out your survey. Once opened there are instructions as to how to fill it out and return it to me, Richard Palmer, R&R Coordinator.

A note from our new 1st Vice President

We have been looking for a place to spend the winter that didn’t include the cold and snow. Gwen much prefers someplace near the water. Doesn’t really matter whether it’s the ocean, a river, or a lake. However, this year we ended up in Yuma, AZ. So much for being near the water. We are at the Sun Vista RV Resort, an over 55 park, which has its advantages (like no kids in the pools). There are tons of activities to keep us busy, and did I mention, there’s no snow.

The first day here we ran across a past SMART member. He did not renew his SMART membership due to family medical issues and ultimately had to sell his RV. He did try to contact one of the Arizona chapters to inquire about becoming a social member but said that no one ever got back to him. This should never happen and I fear this is not an isolated event. We need to ensure that our members who must quit traveling in their RV for whatever reason are aware of and afforded the opportunity to continue in SMART as a social member. There are a lot of SMART activities around the country where attendance is not predicated on owning an RV.

Our President, Paul Rider, in his article this month talks about the SMART website and our great caravan opportunities. I too want to encourage everyone to visit the SMART website on a regular basis. Our Web Master, Jack Fritz, and the ladies at SMART Headquarters do an outstanding job of keeping the website up to date and easy to navigate. If you have ideas or comments regarding the website please do not hesitate to contact either Jack, Melissa, Phyllis, or any member of the Board of Directors. Your input is always welcome. Paul also mentioned the great caravans coming up in 2020. This is a great way to see some beautiful country, both in the U.S. and Canada. The Wagon Masters do all the work and all you have to do is enjoy the trip. Gwen and I are the Wagon Masters and Jon and Nancy Katin are the Assistant Wagon Masters (Tail Gunners) for the 2020 Canadian Maritime’s Caravan. As of this writing we have 3 spots available. If you have ever thought about doing this caravan, now is your chance. This is our 3rd trip to the Maritimes and I promise you will not be disappointed.

Safe travels and we hope to see you all down the road.

Carl Hopper, 1st VP
A message from our New 2nd Vice President

By the time you read this publication Thanksgiving will have come and gone and Christmas is on the horizon. Therefore, I wish everyone reading this e-news a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year!

I am so proud of the Membership & Publicity Committee and the Website Committee for all of their efforts in retention/recruiting and website organization. We have for a long period of time been stuck in membership with less than 1000 members. With their efforts in giving you the tools and the aid of SMART Headquarters to promote SMART we have hit the 1000 + mark. Use the tools available to include having applications in your possession and yes ladies in your purses to show what an exceptional club they could become a part of.

The 2020 SMART National committee is working intensely to have enough activities to keep you from spending more time in your rigs than participating in fun filled activities, entertainment, games, useful seminars and ways to meet new friends. We have more talent in this organization than in most and we will enjoy having you at the talent show where door prizes will be a part of it. I encourage each Region to have at least one participant/group.

Please register on line as soon as possible because we will be assigning sites as the registrations come in. Remember "The early bird catches the worm". Because of the location of the 2020 National in Shawnee it is projected that we will have up to 150 rigs at the event since it is located in Mid-America.

I want to thank those of you that submitted your after-action comments at the 2019 National and I have read them all and appreciate your candor. To the 2019 SMART National committee. Thank You for all you did in preparation for the event.

Willie R. Pollard, Jr.
2nd Vice President

Our First Donation

Alamo SMARTs chapter member Michael Luken donated his 1996 Honda Gold Wing 1500, on 8 Nov with 54,600 miles through the SMART vehicle donation program. He says the process was easy by going to the donation website and letting them know he wanted it designated for SMART. It was picked up on 18 Nov and will be auctioned off with the proceeds going to SMART after transportation and advertising costs have been deducted. We hope Michael’s generous donation will be the first of many from our members, friends, relatives, and others who see the National Charity Services (NCS) Vehicle Donation website advertisements or on the SMART website. Their logo at the top of this article is the one to look for to donate. To read a detailed article on the program see page 7 of the November Traveler. If you have any questions, contact the program coordinator Past President John Steinbauer at jfs9840@gmail.com.
Many of the SMART Texans have been on the road during September and October. Twenty two members made the trek half way across the country to attend the 2019 SMART National Muster in Urbanna, VA. The weather was amazing during our time there and the Beth Page RV Resort was beautiful and in an amazing location on the Chesapeake Bay. Our time there as filled with tours, eating and many activities that our members took part in. We cruised on the Hampton Bay passing by the Norfolk Naval shipyard, visited Yorktown and Jamestown, and also visited historic Williamsburg. The local restaurants were a definite surprise for such a small town, and the seafood was very delicious. As usual, the camaraderie between the members of all regions in attendance was very visible.

The SMART Texans, Alamo SMARTs and OK SMARTs will be hosting the 2020 National Muster in Shawnee, OK, September 20 -27, 2020. Many region members wore T-shirts with the 2020 Muster logo. A new rendition of the song “Oklahoma”, prepared by Mary Palmer of the Alamo SMARTs, was performed by the attendees from the SMW Region during the closing evening of the National Muster. Hope to see everyone in Oklahoma in 2020!

On October 10-13, the Texans joined the Alamo SMARTs and OK SMARTs at the Fredericksburg RV Park in Fredericksburg, TX. Fredericksburg, a historic town in the Hill Country of Texas, has a plethora of things to see and do. Wineries, too many to count, are scattered all around Fredericksburg as well as local breweries and distilleries. The town was home to President Lyndon B Johnson, and the LBJ Ranch. There are numerous German restaurants to dine in and the shopping on Main St. did not disappoint.

On Saturday evening, October 12, members caravanned to Stonewall, TX for the Volunteer Fire Dept annual Fish Fry, which can bring in as many as 5,000 attendees. A donation was requested for the meal and the fish, side dishes, desserts and beer was never ending. Attendee donations for the Fish Fry supplement the VFD’s annual budget since only 6% of their budget is supplied by the county. Some of the National Muster attendees from SMW were still on their way home from Virginia and joined us in Fredericksburg.

Jan Schnoor, Texans Sec/Treas.
The Alamo’s had 12 members attend the fun-filled National Muster in Urbanna, and our entire SMW region was well-represented. Thank you to everyone who worked so hard to put together a great National. The venue of BethPage was fantastic! We South Texans got to see some beautiful country in the NE zone, and enjoyed some delicious East Coast seafood. Our region enjoyed putting on a little musical presentation of our plans for the 2020 Nationals to be held in Shawnee, Ok. We hope we motivated you to attend next year, as our committees are already hard at work to ensure a good time will be had by all!

We just finished our Fish Fry Muster held in the beautiful Texas Hill Country town of Fredericksburg, with 23 rigs in attendance. It was a great 4-day weekend, with lots of good eating, games, shopping, and of course the annual Fish Fry held by the VFD of Stonewall, an event that we have been attending for 15 years.

Next gathering will be our annual Christmas Dinner Party and gift exchange held at Blue Skies of Tx in San Antonio, on December 8th.

We will start off the new year with our Super Bowl Muster to be held at Skyline Ranch in Bandera, Tx... the “Cowboy Capital of the World” from January 29th -February 3rd. This is probably our most popular muster, as we begin with Wednesday night at a Country Western Tavern for steak and baked potato night, followed by dancing to some great Country music live band.

Skyline has a rally hall that is huge, with two big-screen TV’s to watch the big game, lots of tables filled with football appetizers, main dishes, and desserts galore. Big money will be won with some friendly gambling from the football pool with much of it going back into our club fund. And still plenty of room for those who wish to listen to the game from afar, while playing games or just visiting with old friends. We will be joined by some Smart Texans as well as members from the OK’s. As always, we look forward to more fun with our Alamo family!

Mary Palmer Alamo Chapter Newsletter Editor
AT LARGE REGION

Duffers, Nomads, STARS, (WIMS) Women in Military Service, Traveling Squares

The At Large Region and Chapter members want to extend a big “Congratulations and Job Well Done” to the planners, supporting staff and many volunteers for their dedication and hard work resulting in a very successful 2019 National Muster. Debi and I personally look forward to attending National each year. It provides us an excellent opportunity to see old friends and fellow travelers, participate in the many activities and meetings and learn about latest changes in SMART and caravans for the coming year.

The highlight for the At Large Region this year was the SMART Second Vice Chair’s, Mr. Paul Rider, swearing in of the officers of our newest chapter, “Women in Military Service (WIMS)”. We congratulate the WIMS’ new Chapter President, Ms. Midge Ward, and her staff for their hard work and dedication in chartering this new chapter recognizing the many contributions and achievements of the present, past and future women serving in our military services, a perfect way to “Honor” their service.

Since the At Large Region chapters only meet during the National Muster and new offices are elected at that time. It is requested that each chapter president update their website to reflect any needed changes resulting from elections and/or recruiting/termination actions.

This past year headquarters requested that each Region assign two Assistant Regional Directors. I reached out to Mike Schmitz (President Nomads) and Midge Ward (President WIMS) and both agreed to serve. As the Director, I want to thank them for stepping up and taking on the additional responsibility. At Midge’s request during National, Melody Thomas will be replacing her as assistant director as we go forward this year.

Have a great year and look forward to seeing everyone at the 2020 National Muster in Shawnee, OK.

John Shore At-Large RD

National Chaplain Larry Shields has had to step down as our National Chaplain, due to health reasons. President Paul Rider has appointed the position of Chaplain to SMART member Lamar Enfinger # 11857. We want to welcome Lamar (& wife Dian) as the new Chaplain of SMART. Please keep Larry & Bonnie Shields in your prayers.
The 2019 National Muster in Urbanna, Virginia, was held the end of September, at Bethpage Camp-Resort, which is rated as one of the top RV resorts. It is located on part of Chesapeake Bay. It was a beautiful location and the local seafood was great. A high point was the evening entertainment. Seamus Kennedy comes from Ireland. Everyone enjoyed his wit and songs from his homeland. Attendees from North MidWest Region were Sherwin and Dorothy Stielow, Donald and Judy Hollis and Ernie and Linda Owen. This year, about 25 percent of the attendees were first timers to a national muster.

Seminars were held throughout the muster. These include several on hobby crafts while others focused on RVing. One seminar went over the Caravans for 2020. In June, the Maritime Caravan will go to the eastern Canadian provinces. The week of the Fourth of July, a caravan will travel to Washington DC. Then the middle of July thru August, a Grand Caravan will “go west” to Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, Montana and South Dakota. Also in the works, is a caravan to the Balloon Festival, in Albuquerque, New Mexico, to be held after the National Muster.

Our next National Muster will be in Shawnee, Oklahoma, Sept. 20-27, 2020. This is a great location for a National Muster. Planning is under way to make this a great event.

Following the National Muster, North MidWest held a joint muster of the Kansas Cavalry and Midway Chapters in Topeka, Kansas. Planning began for next year events.

Ernie Owen North Mid West Region Director.
**2020 SMART Caravans**

**CANADIAN MARITIME PROVINCES CARAVAN**

**21 June To 20 August 2020**

Wagon Masters: Carl and Gwen Hopper, chopper500@aol.com, (Home) 775-882-4044
(Carl’s Cell) 775-232-3958 (Gwen’s Cell) 775-287-0768
Assistant Wagon Masters: Jon and Nancy Katin, jonandnancy2@comcast.net, (Home) 541-967-9131 (Jon’s Cell) 541-220-9476
Cost: $6,900 for a 2 person rig, $5,050 for a 1 person rig, and $2,050 for a guest
(We have 3 openings on this caravan)

**Washington DC Parade Caravan**

**July 1st—July 7th**

Wagonasters John & Kathy Steinbauer jfs9840@gmail.com cell (210) 386-9018
Costs: 2 per RV: $1100  1 per RV: $825 Guests: $300
(We have 5 openings on this caravan)

**2020 Grand Frontier**

**13 July-2 September 2020**

Wagon Masters: David and Jackie Weis  dweis74@hotmail.com
Assistant Wagon Masters: Steve and Sarah Colt  compassfix@gmail.com
Estimated cost: TBD Estimated $5990 for 2 person
(Be number 4 on the standby List)

**2020 Kentucky Caravan**

**Dates: 1-31 October 2020**

Wagonmasters Nita & Phil Taylor philnita.taylor@gmail.com (501) 250-6585
Cost: TBD (Estimated price about $4415 for 2-person RV, $3015 for 1-person RV and $1479 for additional guest)
(We have several openings on this Caravan)

**2020 SMART Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta Caravan**

**Dates: 1-15 October 2020**

Wagon Master: Craig & Terilu Christen  ctchristen@earthlink.net (931) 224-8261
Cost: TBD (Estimated about $1,950 for 2-person RV, $1,500 for 1-person RV and $500 for additional guest)
(We have several openings on this caravan)

Please check our website at smartrving.org to get more details about all the caravans
SMART CARAVAN APPLICATION
Make Checks Payable to: SMART or contact HQ SMART to pay by credit card
Mail To: SMART, INC  114 Duxbury Ave, Molino, FL  32577
A minimum of $280.00 will be submitted with this application. $80.00 of which is a nonrefundable, non-transferable Administrative Fee (unless cancelled by SMART). The remaining $200.00 will be credited as a deposit on the cost of the caravan. 100% deposit refunds will not be made unless a replacement is found, funds for the caravan have not been expended, or the service provider returns funds expended. Trip Cancellation Insurance is at the discretion of the participant. You may wish to contact your regular insurance provider to ascertain if they provide this service.

Please Print Clearly
Caravan Name________________________________________________ Start Date ____________________________
Mbr# _________ Last_________________________First_______________   Spouse/S.O. _________________________
Street Address _________________________________City _______________________________ State ____________
Zip code _______________________________  How do you prefer to receive correspondence? E-Mail ______    USPS _____________
Phone (Home) __________________________ (Cell 1)______________________ (Cell 2) _________________________
Email (His) ___________________________ (Hers) __________________________
Name of Guest traveling in your rig ______________________________________________
JACKET SIZE (if available): His - (S) (M) (L) (XL) (XXL) (XXXL)   Hers - (S) (M) (L) (XL) (XXL) (XXXL)
Guest - (S) (M) (L) (XL) (XXL) (XXXL) (Wagon Master may provide additional size charts info later)
Is this your 1st SMART caravan? (Y) (N)   Type RV: Class A/C _____5th Wheel ___  Trailer ____ # Slide Out(s) _____
Length ___ft. Coupled (with tow vehicle) ___ ft. License Plate #’s:  RV ________________ Vehicle ____________
Do you want 50 AMP at an extra cost (if available - NO GUARANTEE) - (Y) (N) pay at campground.
Do you or your traveling companion use any of the following, cane, walker, wheel chair (electric), scooter, C-PAP? Yes/No If YES, please indicate which one(S)
_______________________________________________________________Special Diet Needs: (His)_____________________________
(Hers)___________________________________
Do you have Senior, Annual, or Access National Park Pass (Y) (N) Do you have pets (Y) (N) How many ________ Type/
Breed ____________________________________________________________
Birthday:  (Month/Day only)  His ________________     Hers____________Anniversary Date: ______________

ALL SMART Members & Non-SMART members must sign, in order to participate – Please Read:
For services rendered to/received by those signed below, in their participation of the SMART activity named above, the undersigned hereby releases, and agrees to indemnify and hold harmless SMART Inc, all officers, directors, employees, agents and their successors and assigns from all liabilities, injuries, obligations, claims, demands, losses, damages, judgments, penalties, expenses and disbursements, including reasonable attorney’s fee of any kind and nature arising out of, or in any way related to the activity listed above. SMART is NOT responsible for the actions of any participating company, or agent, with regard to their role in organizing, planning, or for any other service they may provide for the benefit of the named person or activity. All persons must be 18 years or older, and must sign the required application. Name & Signature of Guests in your Rig “REQUIRED.”

Signature:____________________ Date:__________   Signature: __________________ Date:____________
Signature:   ___________________ Date:__________    Signature: _________________ Date:_____________

ALL CARAVAN MEMBERS MUST HAVE A SMART NAME BADGE.
Contact National HQ to order: Cost is $8.50 (this includes S & H)
A Christmas Poem

The embers glowed softly, and in their dim light, I gazed round the room and I cherished the sight.
My wife was asleep, her head on my chest, My daughter beside me, angelic in rest
Outside the snow fell, a blanket of white, transforming the yard to a winter delight.
The sparkling lights in the tree I believe, Completed the magic that was Christmas Eve
My eyelids were heavy, my breathing was deep, Secure and surrounded by love, I would sleep,
In perfect contentment, or so it would seem, So I slumbered, perhaps I started to dream.
The sound wasn’t loud, and it wasn’t too near, But I opened my eyes when it tickled my ear.
Perhaps just a cough, I didn’t quite know, Then the sure sound of footsteps outside in the snow.
My soul gave a tremble, I struggled to hear, And I crept to the door just to see who was near.
Standing out in the cold and the dark of the night, A lone figure stood his face weary and tight.
A soldier, I puzzled, some twenty years old, Perhaps a Marine, huddled here in the cold.
Alone in the dark, he looked up and smiled, Standing watch over me, and my wife and my child.
"What are you doing?" I asked without fear, "Come in this moment, it's freezing out here!
Put down your pack; brush the snow from your sleeve, You should be at home on a cold Christmas Eve!"
For barely a moment I saw his eyes shift, Away from the cold and the snow blown in drifts,
To the window that danced with a warm fire's light. Then he sighed and he said "It's really all right, I'm out here by choice. I'm here every night."
"It's my duty to stand at the front of the line, That separates you from the darkest of times.
No one had to ask or beg or implore, I'm proud to stand here like my fathers before.
My Gramps died at Pearl on a day in December." Then he sighed, "That's a Christmas Gram always remembers."
"My dad stood his watch in the jungles of 'Nam', And now it is my turn and so, here I am.
I've not seen my own son in more than a while, But my wife sends me pictures; he's sure got her smile."
Then he bent and he carefully pulled from his bag, The red, white, and blue... an American flag.
"I can live through the cold and the being alone, Away from my family, my house and my home
I can stand at my post through the rain and the sleet, I can sleep in a foxhole with little to eat.
I can carry the weight of killing another, Or lay down my life for my sister or brother,
Who stand at the front against any and all To ensure for all time that this flag will not fall."
"So go back inside," he said, "Harbor no fright, Your family is waiting and I'll be all right."
"But isn't there something I can do, at the least? Give you money," I asked, "Or prepare you a feast?
It seems all too little for all that you've done, for being away from your wife and your son."
Then his eye welled a tear that held no regret, "Just tell us you love us, and never forget To fight for our rights back at home while we're gone, To stand your own watch, no matter how long
For when we come home, either standing or dead, To know you remember we fought and we bled Is payment enough, and with that we will trust, that we mattered to you as you mattered to us."

Author Unknown

PET PHOTOS

We want your CAMPING PET PHOTOS we are going to start up our PET of the MONTH again. Send your photos in to HQ to see your fur babies in the TRAVELER. Make sure you let us know their name where they like to go camping, and who they belong too.

(Denny loves to go anywhere camping he belongs to Phylis Enfinger)
The Recruiting & Retention is the #1 program for SMART. We have been experiencing a decline in membership but with your help together we can bring the membership back up. The R&R Team is proactive and is coming up with great ways to promote SMART. Our intention is to **Assist** members in recruiting efforts, **Widen** our recruiting efforts with advertising and publicity, **Connect** SMART with more related activities, **Strengthen** our retention of current members and **Promote** SMART Chapter recognition.

**Assist and encourage current members** to accelerate vet-to-vet efforts to sign up new members

**Widen our Recruiting activities.** SMART is virtually unknown among the more than 20 million US veterans. Even in military RV parks frequented by many of our members, few veterans have heard about SMART

**Connect SMART with Related Commercial Activities.** SMART is considering partnerships with KOA and similar companies to broaden our exposure. Second only to, military FAMCAMP’s, RV dealers are our next highest “target rich environment”. They sell RV’s to lots of vets. All our members have relations with local and national RV dealers. WE need a strong effort to ensure every RV dealer knows about SMART

**Improve Retention of all Current Members.** AS our long-term members age, it is normal for some to end their Rving due to health reasons. SMART has a Social Membership category for those no longer Rving but desire to stay in touch. Social members continue to have full membership benefits.

**Promote membership in the STAR Chapter.** The STAR Chapter is a current component of SMART membership recruiting and retention. SMART members who recruit five or more members are eligible to join the STAR Chapter

We have a lot of great tools and material for you to use to help you recruit members to SMART. Be positive. Be proactive. Get out there and recruit.

**Richard Palmer**
SMART Recruiting & Retention Coordinator

The four following articles were missed in the November TRAVELER, I apologize to each of the chapters for not getting their articles in the November TRAVELER. Melissa /HQ
TAPS:

As you probably have heard by now, Colleen’s mother, Carol J BANEY, passed away on November 2nd at an age of 94. She was born on Christmas Day in 1923, hence the origins of her name.

She was buried at Marietta National Cemetery alongside her husband, Robert A Baney, on November 27.

Those of you who knew Carol know that she was one of a kind. Bob and Carol were members of Tri-State Rebels from 1990, joining in the year following the founding of our chapter. After the death of Robert in 1994, Carol continued as a SMART member until the late 2000s when her health prevented her from traveling alone. One of the stories that members always told about Carol is that when arriving at a muster one of the first things she did was clean her motorhome. Her motorhome was aluminum sided and she polished it so much that when Colleen and I bought the motorhome in 2018 there were many spots where there was no paint left, only shiny aluminum.

Every January she would head to Key West. I think this trip she enjoyed more than any other. She loved getting together with friends and visiting and playing cards or Yahtzee. She always looked forward to the musters.

Some of her other accomplishments are:
* Commercial Instrument rated Pilot.
* Participated several times in the All Women's Transcontinental Air Race (Powder Puff Derby).
* The first FAA representative at the Minot, North Dakota Airport. She also co-authored a book on the history of the airport, Under Their Wings.
* Certified Instrument Simulator Trainer for the US Army Aviation Branch, Fort Rucker, Alabama.
* Air Traffic Controller and Flight Service Station manager.
* Longtime member of The Ninety-Nines: International Organization of Women Pilots

She will be missed by a lot of us. In lieu of flowers or cards, please donate to the Alzheimer’s Association (https://www.alz.org/).

Thanks, Keith and Colleen Hardman

I would like to start the article back up to highlighting our Special Members. So if you have a member in your chapter that deserves some special recognition please forward your article to me at melissa@smartrving.org. If you have photos to go with your article that would be even better! (Please send article in word format)

SMART HQ

DECEMBER SMART E-NEWS 2019

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