

# The 43

July — September, 2013

Semper Stantes

Volume 43.1



## Spotlights...

**Gary Sommerfelt** — almost 750 hours

**What is your career, field of study or background?**

*In my prior life I was a real estate attorney. Now I'm a retired, stay-at-home dad.*

**What historical figure do you most identify with?**

*Abraham Lincoln. I identify with tall guys.*

**Which living person do you most admire?**

*My dad. He's 92, can't see, hear, or walk very well, but he gets up every day and does the best he can. No matter what stupid thing I did in my life, he always supported me.*



**What do you consider your greatest achievement?**

*Getting married to my wife, Kathi. I would not have been able to accomplish what I have in my adult life without her love and support.*

**What is your motto?**

*"Even a blind squirrel gets a few nuts now and then."*

**What do you like most about volunteering at the Presidential Library and Museum?**

*The people I work with and meet. We have a great group of docents and volunteers, and our visitors are so nice. I always look forward to my time in the Library.*

**Teresa Ryant** — over 750 hours as a Museum Collections Volunteer

**Amy Stone** — over 1,000 hours as an Education Docent

## Visitors' Voices...

From **Google Plus' website:**

**Scott Duke:** "Excellent! Very Well done. Forget about the politics. The information gathered for that eight years of our country's existence is bar none the best laid out truthful report of US history. It is a Must see."

## DUBYA Stats...by the numbers

	May	June
Average tickets sold / day .....	1,877	1,700
Total tickets sold.....	58,184	51,012
Total Presidential Passports .....	98	n/a
Tours for Schools .....	65	51
Tours for non-Schools .....	51	72

####

Only **24** handhelds lost with over **100,000** visitors!

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Busiest Day: **Saturday**

Busiest Hours: **12:00—3:00 p.m.**

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As we all have witnessed, the 'Quantity' of visitors is evident; but we have, also, seen a 'Quality' of world-wide and nation-wide visitors coming in all ages. We have all observed the bright eyes of students who have been prepared by their teachers and can eagerly ask relevant questions and adults mesmerized by the memories of history. We have two months behind us and many experiences ahead!



**Brag Corner....**



**Tom Carr** celebrated his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday on April 19, and he spent the day viewing the Bush Museum prior to the opening . . . a great way to celebrate!

**Elizabeth Perry-Miller** recently took her seven-year old son to the Bush Museum. He thought it was “really cool” to see his name on the Freedom Registry screen, and he placed his 43 sticker over his heart out of respect. Though he’s too young to know about 9-11-01, he was very interested in Areas 3 and 4. After two hours in the museum, he said, “President Bush did a lot to make our country safe.” Elizabeth sends her thanks to all the volunteers who welcomed and engaged with him.

Happy Birthday wishes to **Linda Massey** on July 20, the day man landed on the moon.



**John Chambers at the Resolute!**

**Mildred Brown** was in a serious automobile accident the day after the final docent training session and suffered a badly broken leg and ankle. After two hospital stays and two operations (she watched the dedication ceremony from her hospital bed), Mildred is progressing well. She’ll be homebound for a few more weeks, but she’s eager to join the docents on the Museum floor as soon as she gets the ‘OK’ from her doctor. Her new gray skirt was in the car when the accident occurred and was lost, but her navy blazer is ready to go! Her “docent shoes” have proven to be the ones she wears outside the house for doctor visits, so they’ll be well broken in for Museum duty. President and Mrs. Bush sent Mildred a note, which she really appreciated, saying, “When you know the President is praying for you, how can you not get better?” We look forward to seeing Mildred in the not too distant future!

In May, **Julie Crowley’s** son, Michael Crowley, graduated from SMU’s MBA Program, where he was a Cox Distinguished Scholar. Congratulations!

Congratulations to **Jo Ann Mueller**, whose grandson, Travis Price, recently graduated from Pittsburg State University in Pittsburg, KS. Travis is continuing in the Masters Program to earn his degree in Accounting. Jo Ann and her husband, Rudy, are proud grandparents!

**Janet Thrall** reports that she recently toured John Adams’ library in Quincy, MA. It does not technically qualify as a presidential library, as it contains only books, no presidential papers, but Janet notes that it’s worth the National Park Service Tour. She sent this very charming photo of the library .





From **Melissa Fullen Davis**: “What a lovely group of volunteers and docents we can proudly claim to be, a collaborative effort of kind, hard working intellectuals honorably supporting The George W. Bush Presidential Library and Museum. Rain or shine, or 110 degrees, we diligently put our best foot forward (albeit often an aching one), to represent our freedom, the great fortune of being A United States Citizen, and last, but certainly not least, President George Walker Bush . . . I just thought I’d jot down a collective menagerie of some of the silliest, and often times good questions that we are faced with in the line of duty . . .

- Why can’t my two year old have a fruit smoothie in the Oval Office?
- Would you please help me find my wife? I can’t quite remember what she looks like.
- Can you please direct me to the McDonald’s in here? I know there’s one in the building.
- Is President Bush here right now? Do you mind if we just ‘pop in’ and say hello?
- Who composed the soundtrack for the main atrium. Was the cello in A minor?
- Does everyone who works here have to be good looking? You are all so darling.

. . . The GWB Library and Museum is an excellent place to work, volunteer and contribute towards our civic duty. I’ve never felt more welcome or inspired by any group of people. Keep the questions coming from our patrons . . . this is what we’re here for. Oh, lest I forget, a shout out to Henry who makes big things happen, our security staff who are phenomenal, our dear Annie who works tirelessly, and our fearless leader, Carina, without whom we could not function.”

From **Carli K. Baylor**: “Pop’s Principles.”

“I believe one develops a set of principles through faith, how you were raised and where you were raised.’ President Bush’s voice echoes through the darkness. The audience is silent, gazing up at the theater screen . . . Rustic and vintage images slide into view. ‘George and I grew up in West Texas where people are hardworking and very solid, there’s no pretension.’ Mrs. Bush smiles, and the screen fades into a deep charcoal. In an instant, more images appear.

The Orientation Theater . . . isn’t very large. I’m thankful for the darkness as the introductory film “A Charge to Keep” plays on. I hastily reach underneath my square-rimmed glasses and wipe a tear trickling down off my lashes and onto my cheek. It’s my first day to volunteer in the museum, but I’ve watched the film at least a dozen times already . . . new tears form each time.

‘Principles,’ I keep thinking to myself. More snapshots appear.

I have a vintage photograph similar to the ones in the film on my fridge . . . the black and white snapshot features my grandparents sitting at a table. My Pop, known to others as Edwin C. Woodburn or ‘Woody’ for short, dons his military uniform. A lieutenant commander in the U.S. Navy, he was a pilot in the Pacific during World War II . . . you can detect a warm glow in his rosy, youthful face. His eyes sparkle with gentility.

You see, my Pop is one of the main reasons I chose to volunteer at the George W. Bush Presidential Library and Museum. He donates to the Bush Center and keeps the autographed pictures President and Mrs. Bush send to him . . . he’ll be 90 in November and is recuperating at his home in Virginia after suffering a stroke in January . . . but his eyes still glow with honesty and warmth . . .

Every time I step into the Library and devote my time to serving my community and my country, I keep Pop close to my heart. He taught me the value of principles, hard work and following dreams, and I can’t help but feel his presence with me each time I’m there. I’ve realized that being at the George W. Bush Presidential Library and Museum isn’t just about experiencing American history – it’s about experiencing the American family and the American principles. When you’re there, you’re home.”



From **Tom Carr**: I wanted to let you know how much I appreciate having **Julie Smith** on our team. I have liked Julie since the first day I met her . . . She really made me feel welcome.

Since then, I have never heard her say anything in the slightest way negative. She always greets me with a smile and a hello . . . she is always there to provide me with assistance. Even during the times when she had to ‘rescue us’ from the loading dock, she always appeared with a big smile and a ‘Good Morning’ or ‘Hello.’

I am a big believer in the effect a person with a positive attitude and positive energy can have on an entire team. Positive energy is contagious and will spread throughout a team. Julie makes our entire team better! . . .

She is a **gem!**



**Volapalooza.....**

**Q1: Do you speak more than one language?**  
 Answered: 122 Skipped: 0  
 17.21% Yes / 82.79% No

Yes
No

**Q2: Have you ever been a teacher?**  
 Answered: 122 Skipped: 0  
 52.46% Yes / 47.54% No

**Q3: Are you originally from Texas?**  
 Answered: 120 Skipped: 2  
 48.33% Yes / 51.67% No

**Q4: Do you volunteer at the Library and Museum with multiple members of your family?** Answered: 121 Skipped: 1  
 11.57% Yes / 88.43% No

**Q5: Have you visited all 13 Presidential Libraries and Museums?** Answered: 122 Skipped: 0  
 1.64% Yes / 98.36% No

**Q6: Do you work full-time?** Answered: 122 Skipped: 0  
 27.87% Yes / 72.13% No