



BRYAN & SUSIE APPLEBY

818 Byrd Drive
Erie, CO 80516

merries CHRISTMAS

Finn, Ayr, Bryan & Susie Appleby

Dearest Bob & Joan!

Christmas 2023

Merry Christmas, from sunny Colorado. We are hearing weather forecasts of a White Christmas this year and we might just get one, too. While I love the beauty of the falling snow and how everything becomes wintry white, I am no longer a fan of the cold weather.

2023 started with a very abrupt beginning with my stroke occurring the evening of January 2nd. I was working at my desk when I felt and saw a complete change on the right side of my body. Noticeably my right as it fell off my mouse, palm up. I could not will it back onto the mouse so I reached with my left hand to move my right hand back onto the mouse. It was then I felt nothing, but a weight of dead arm. Slowly getting up and using the wall for support, I got to Susie, in the other room. At first, she did not believe me, cannot imagine why, but she whisked me to the hospital. Long story short, I spent 8 days in the I.C.U. going from unable to walk and talk to almost a full recovery. I was diagnosed with a CVA, which was 8 tiny explosions in my brain that destroyed some of the surrounding brain cells. Now I have an excuse!

I owe recovery to my wife and daughter, Cairn, as friends who ARE saints! Including the battery of individuals who were there to help me walk safely and understand what had/has happened to me. Balance and walking are still a challenge as is my cognitive side of life. I will just Ranger on!

Without a day lost, I received a phone call upon my arrival home, from my previous Supervising Ranger, informing me that I would not be invited back to being a Park Ranger in Grand Teton National Park. I asked why and she stated that an individual was concerned, as she was, about my health. She stated that he felt that I would not be able to perform the duties of a Ranger and he needed staff that could do the work. She suggested I take the summer off and take care of my health. Or, if I really wanted to return to Rangering to relocate to a smaller, less busy park. After several interviews and offers, I chose Yellowstone National Park, a smaller and less busy park. It was an amazing summer with some remarkable people to work with and a new supervisor, Brian Perry, who is fabulous. I also did my programs with rousing success and attendance. It was good to be a Ranger again.

Susie had a busy year and summer as both of us addressed some health issues, working on our home (I know it is a new home what could possibly need improving), our growing perennial garden/s, our Scotty Dogs and traveling a bit. Susie's big trip of the season was going to Alaska! That is where she saw some BIG grizzly bears and flew in a single engine plane around Mount Denali. She completed the build of the new police station and move in. That was a multi-year process. She is currently working on projects that will tie up projects before schedule he much dreamed of, retirement. Stay tuned!

We had our annual Kayak tip to Yellowstone National Park in late August and early September. Due to my health my best buddy recommended we switch to a canoe so I would not have as much difficulty negotiating the shoreline of Yellowstone Lake. We paddled from Grant Village to Promontory Point. We encountered some hellish winds. There was no way I could have made the adventure if it had not been for the work of John Marietta and support of so many friends, Colin and Richard Henderson, Tommy Marietta, Brian and LaDawn Towel, CJ and Mark Adams.

Early Fall found me back in my hometown of Salina Kansas for my High School Reunion. I am seeing less and less of classmates as we/they travel less and some are passing on. It was still such a great time seeing so many faces from such a long time ago.

I also snuck away for a few days to visit my long-time friend, Bud. Did you know he celebrated his 84th birthday! I was once asked, "Why do you have so many older friends?" Well, now they are getting really old and even more important in my life.

I am back home in Colorado, dreaming up more adventures ahead and wondering what I can photograph next. Susie and I are starting to talk about our retirement years ahead and that is exciting too.

Thanks again for being in my life and making it much better because of the impact of your love and friendship. Hope our paths will cross in the coming year and years.

Love always,

bryan

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Bryan', written over the printed name 'bryan'.