



Michigan Wounded and Returning Warrior Retreat Program

Mackinac Island Retreat Testimonials

Gary

Everything was just wonderful. We had a great time. Sorry you have not heard from me as yet but had to make a quick turnaround and come back up to Manistique to retrieve my grand children to bring down for a week with us so I have a lot of windshield time this week. We returned from the island on Monday late afternoon, and I came back up Wednesday going home tomorrow. If you would please send me the address where I can send a formal letter to the American Legion Post or Headquarters that sponsored us. The letter will also thank the Murry Hotel who were our hosts and provided us with more than gracious outstanding service while we were there. There are many who insured we did not want for anything Mar & Paul Pulte of the Murry Hotel, the Mackinaw carriage tour co., and the Chippewa Hotel restaurant. We had a tour of the island, comedy night, concert, and other events. This was the first time we have ever been there on our own without having to be at a meeting, family, friends. etc. Just us and nothing but time together. Please send us the address needed as we wish to send a letter not just e-mail to all involved.

Thank you so very much again,
Edgar J. & Marian Groom
1SG, MI-ARNG
Retired, U.S. Army

Gary,

We would like to let you all know we had a GREAT time at the Island!!!
It was just what we needed, and we were treated with great respect!
We were busy the whole time we were there (even when it was cold).
The time of year was perfect and we especially had a great carriage ride.
So we are sending out a "GREAT BIG THANK YOU" to:
Gary, Dr. Mark Kane, and the AMERICAN LEGION

Respectfully;
Lyle and Jan Spicer

Gary,

A family vacation has not been in our future plans because of money issues so this was a dream come true. I cannot begin to express what this means to us. Thank you so very much. Please let us know if there is anything that we can do in the e future for a fellow veteran in need of help. We wouldn't be able to help financially for a long time yet but if there is anything else we can do please let us know. The help that the American Legion has given us we will never forget.

Thank you again for everything.

~Dorothy and Everett Redner

Dear Mr. Tanner and the American Legion:

My husband, David, and I were recently given the opportunity to take a vacation in Mackinac Island, thanks to the American Legion, and had an amazing time. We were contacted by Gary Tanner who set us up with spending money, a free ferry ride, and two nights at the Murray Hotel, where the owner provided us with a free dinner at Mary's Bistro. The hotel staff were amazing and so was dinner. We took a carriage tour and explored the island together. This is the first vacation David and I have been able to take together since we were married two years ago, and this trip came together just in time for our anniversary. We appreciate, from the bottom of our hearts, this opportunity, and we are always appreciative of those who give back to our veterans and support those who fought for our country. We feel very fortunate to have had this weekend together in Mackinac Island and hope that the American Legion can continue to give families a similar experience.

Thanks again,
Jacquelyn Blizzard

Gary

Just wanted to thank you again for setting my wife and I up with the trip. We had a great time on the island, it was very relaxing and fun. Everything went smoothly from the ferry and the hotel. The staff at the Murray hotel was great. Mar was awesome, she gave my wife and I gift certificates for dinner at Mary's Bistro. We also took a carriage tour of the Island. It was the first time my wife and I have spent a weekend alone in two years and we had a blast. Thanks again for everything you and the American Legion do it is greatly appreciated. Keep up the good work helping Vets and their families.

Thanks again
Semper Fi

David

Mr. Tanner,

I will start by saying that me and my wife had a wonderful time in Mackinac. The staff and manager at the Murray were so accommodating we did not have to worry about anything while we were there. Secondly I would like to thank you and the American Legion for providing us with the opportunity to go on this trip.

The generosity of your organization has been truly touching and it has given me great comfort knowing that during this transition period in my Military career I have so many veterans and a veterans organization that would do something as extraordinary as sending me on a honeymoon.

If there is anything that I can ever do for the American Legion please know that I am only a phone call away.

Thank you again from my wife and I.

Semper Fi

R/S

Andrew D. Bourassa

Gary,

I would like to send out a thank you from me and my family.

Our trip to Mackinac Island was awesome. We could not have been more surprised by the staff and management's commitment to our stay. It was a surprise to get the unlimited fudge, all you can eat meals, free island tour & butterfly house tickets. The butterfly exhibit and free entry to all the historical attractions created a perfect family vacation. There was truly something for everyone.

Our boys, 12 and 4 years old, loved the Fort, Cannons, Army Re-enactors, food, candy, ice cream and the 'all important' Mackinac Fudge. Mom and I liked the rooms with great views and walking right out to the heart of Main St. Everyone from start to finish treated us better than we have ever been on ANY trip we have ever taken.

Special thanks for the Spending money which allowed us to get the boys souvenirs, clothing and even a few toys without stressing over budgeting for a vacation that, to be honest, we would not have been able to take at all this year. To this day we are wearing our t-shirts and Josh, 4, is hooked on his Mackinac favorite vacation stories!

So again, Thank you to all involved in helping my family enjoy a wonderful vacation.

Steven Barnes

Sgt, US Army Retired.

PS, I even got to look up a soldier I served with in Iraq on the Veterans Memorial Wall.

Dear Gary,

I want to thank you for sponsoring me and my wife and two daughters this past weekend on a trip to Mackinac Island. We all had a wonderful time. Mar at the Murray Hotel had everything prepared for us, from the ferry tickets, to our room, all our meals, a carriage tour, bikes plus places to visit and see. We were treated so well. Dennis, a hotel manger, looked after us and helped arrange our activities, and he took us to get bikes and our carriage tour. Dennis checked up on us to make sure everything was going well. We appreciated his thoughtfulness and attention.

This entire trip was absolutely amazing. Everything was first class and we were treated like we were important or special. All of the hotel staff were so polite and considerate. We felt welcome there because of their friendliness and professionalism. The meals at the hotel were all excellent. Each meal had enough variety that each of us enjoyed food of our personal liking. The hotel was so generous to us with their fudge. That was unbelievable.

The bikes turned out to be much more than we thought they would. The bike rental encouraged us to keep them until we were close to our departure from the Island. We wound up exploring the Island rather thoroughly, plus peddling 3 times around the Island. The bikes really saved me, as I have had bad leg cramps for several months whenever I walk any distance. I did not know how I would fare on the Island, but riding the bikes let me get around whenever and wherever we chose and I did not have any leg cramps the entire trip. Our trip would not have been the same without the bikes. Thank you so much.

Thank you for the \$500. I thought we would not spend any of it except for gas and ice cream. Apparently you are familiar with prices on the island. Thank you for this generous gift. This allowed me to relax and not be the penny pincher that I normally am. And it let my wife and daughters enjoy themselves more than they ever had previously. We always bring our own food and drinks when we travel.

I need to explain this. Prior to my counseling relationship with Dr. Mark Kane this trip would have not been very enjoyable for my family. I could not relax or accept things from other people. Work was the only place where I was somewhat comfortable. But I truly relaxed and enjoyed this weekend. I saw that my counseling with Dr. Kane is definitely paying off in me changing and growing for the better. Thank you for offering us the Mackinac Island Weekend. We enjoyed this so much. This really was a time of healing relationships in our family while being able to be tourists with no schedules or deadlines

Sincerely,
Steve Lankhorst

Good afternoon Gary,
My family and I would like to thank you very much for the trip you provided us to Mackinac Island. It was a well needed rest, and helped us to recharge our batteries.
Thank you again

Pete Bice

