

1. All-Stars Among Us and Constitutional Hall.

2. Miracles Happen Festival II ☐ seven days and counting!

3. Other

- 1) From July 2- July 14th I definitely experienced some of the greatest honors, dreams and amazing experiences one could ever imagine (not to mention the 6000 miles of travels). It was far beyond baseball, touring the White House and speaking to 3000 people in Constitutional Hall at the 119th Continental Congress.

Here's the story: The first honor came with the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR). It began here in Rochester at the local level recognizing Ironwood for the retreats we hold for military families called OPERATION WELCOME HOME. Bonnie Kottschade nominated me for the Community Service Award and to my amazement; I won locally, regionally, state-wide and nationally. Bonnie called one day with the exciting news that I was the National Winner. So after throwing out the baseball for the Twins, Jode, Hannah, Birdie, Lydia, Abigail and I took the scenic route to Washington DC by way of Niagara Falls, Boston and New York.

BOSTON: We watched fireworks on July 4th with about 1,000,000 people and listened to the Boston Pops. We actually bumped into Wayne & Pam Wesala, good friends from AZ on a street corner! We walked much of the Freedom Trail, drove thru Harvard, went to a beach and the next day drove the Boston Marathon course which I had wheeled five times.

NEW YORK: We stayed in New Jersey which was much less expensive than downtown New York, and then visited Ground Zero, Central Park, Statue of Liberty and rode the subway and city buses witnessing some quite dramatic events.

WASHINGTON DC: We stayed at the Marriott next to the White House compliments of DAR. We had personal tours of the White House and Capitol thanks to Congressman John and Vicki Kline. We saw the memorials, Smithsonian and the top of the Washington Monument. Actually, there were no tickets left for the day, but a police officer tapped me on the shoulder and asked if we would like to go the top, minutes later we were 560 ft in the air.

I spoke at Constitutional Hall, listened to the Army Band followed by four other awards of extra ordinary American Patriotism always promoting God and Country. It was a very emotional patriotic night to say the least. Believe me, there are many patriotic and good American people who love our country and are letting their voice be heard. DAR is such a great organization. The conference closed with a standing rousing GOD BLESS AMERICA.

The next day we accidentally drove into the Army Base at Arlington Cemetery and later that day the valet driver smashed our rented van. We got it fixed and the story continues.

On to Anaheim, CA. At midnight we left DC to drive 600 miles to Indianapolis, IN to catch a flight to Dallas and on to Anaheim arriving at 4pm in time for the VIP meeting. WOW. The next three days were nothing short of amazing. How Major League Baseball honored us was beyond belief.

Highlights: Attending press conferences, riding limos and big fancy buses, fabulous meals, personal talks and handshakes from several baseball greats including Bud Selik (Commissioner), People Magazine CEO, press box seating, two evening gala events, Home Run Derby, several personal interviews from Fox and MLB. Sitting on the field prior to the game, watching your face on the big screen, listening to the announcer tell 50,000 fans that these 30 people are the real ALL-STARs this weekend for what they do in their communities serving from the heart. Several times, the FOX live camera focused on the wheels of my wheelchair, getting my baseball signed and spending time chatting with Joe Girardi, General Manager of the Yankees. (He stopped me in the hall, gave me his home address and wants to stay in touch). And lastly, making 29 new friends from across the country who

prior to going out on the field, joined hands in a circle and Pete the All-Star for the Yankees led us in a heartfelt prayer.

The experience on the field was breathtaking. I purposely dropped my water bottle once to snatch a little infield grass. Later that night we said our goodbyes to the other 29 All-stars, a few of the players signed our baseballs and chatted in the halls, took photos and the day ended at midnight. The next morning we flew to Rochester and so the memories and friendships will last a lifetime.

God is Good All the Time.

Your Friend, Bob

2. Miracles Happen Festival II

Friday, July 30th

Youth and Family Night: Sponsored by Youth for Christ and KFSI Radio

4:30pm FESTIVAL BEGINS!!

5-9pm Food Vendors

5-7pm Zip Line

5:00pm Movie "To Save a Life" in the Chapel

7:30pm Concerts @ Tennis Courts

Mission Challenge from Next Step Ministries

Saved on Sunday Band

Silverline Christian Band

Everyday Sunday Band

Saturday, July 31st

7-9am Breakfast @ Dining Hall

8:00am 5K Run (Over the river and thru the woods -Registration 7:00am)

9:00am 5K Bike Ride (same course)

9:00am Noon Kids Carnival (The Minnesota Army National Guard will be providing a large inflatable play station, climbing wall and kids HumVee's to drive)

10-11:30am Zip Line

10-4:00pm Food Vendors

10:30am Antique Tractor Parade

1:30-4:30pm Kids crafts/scavenger hunt

1:00-3:30pm MILITARY SALUTE

A medal of Valor will be given to Sgt. Patrick Zeigler, a survivor of the Ft Hood Military Base killing in TX.

Recognition will also be given to the family of Lance corporal Curtis Swenson killed in Afghanistan.

Updates from other military [worthy missions]:

Honor flights, Tee It Up for the Troops, Beyond the Yellow ribbon, Daughters of the American Revolution & Disabled American Veterans.

Testimonials from soldiers

Patriotic Songs [Driven]

2:00 LEE GREENWOOD

Retire Colors, 21 salute and Taps

GOD BLESS AMERICA

Gifts to all military.

3:30pm Champions Forever (tennis courts)

5-7pm Hog Roast

5:30pm Hot Air Balloon Ride Drawing @ Athletic Field

5:30-6:15 Rollie Kittleson

6:00pm Hot Air Balloon Rides

6-7pm Zip Line

7:00pm Kingery Family Bluegrass Music

8:30pm Tony Melendez-Toe Jam Music

Sunday, August 1st

7:30-9am Breakfast-Dining Hall

9am-3pm Classic Car & Truck Show sponsored by McNeilus Steel

10am Tony Melendez-Toe Jam Music

Noon-1pm Zip Line

Noon-3pm Food Vendors

1:00pm Kingery Family Bluegrass Music

2:15pm Crosswinds Band

4:00pm Festival ends until July 29-31, 2011.

3. OTHER:

- Thanks to Eaglebrook Church for their continued work on the Red Barn.
- Second Zip Line is now in use
- Dan & Pat Kenow are doing a wonderful job as volunteers at the ranch
- Second crop of hay is done and the corn is over 7'tall.

Spreading JOY- changing lives

Bob Bardwell