



Claus, Santa A. USMC & Elf Noel

A Santa Moment on the Front Porch

Rob, I love your theme in Front Porch Magazine - "We're about people". Santa is about Creating Wonderful Memories. Did you know that the longest lasting childhood positive memory is that special moment with Santa? I remember each and every time I was with him. His name was Santa Jake and he wore this special blue ring. It had magical power over me...I would sit on his lap and twirl it around Santa's finger. He came to my home every Christmas Eve with one gift.

My dad loved fishing and one evening his fishing buddy came to our home. There stood a wonderful happy man who greeted me by name. "How are the new baby kittens, Denny?" I had no idea who he was. Dad just smiled. For years I saw Santa Jake and Dad's fishing friend. One day he picked me up and put me on his lap. "Wow, you're getting big" he exclaimed! "How is the pumpkin business?" It is fall...as I sat on Dad's fishing friend's lap, I looked at his hand. Santa's Ring! I didn't speak a word...my mind raced. Dad's fishing friend is Santa Jake????? After careful thought of many months I was OK with that. Santa is real for me and his name is Jake.

As the years went by Jake went to his reward where Santa would go. I look at his and my picture in my kitchen every day. I am reminded of the movie "The Santa Clause" with Tim Allen (love him) and realize I am the one that put on the suit and now I must "Create the Memories".

I put on the suit 10 years ago as a response to the 911 attacks. What could I do to help?? We were all hurting. I hired a costume designer who was putting together a portfolio for a job in Williamsburg. She came and visited Historic Old Town Fredericksburg. She went back and designed Santa's suit with an old world flare. Frogs (Seamstress term) and military buttons down the front of the suit. It has a hood of white satin and a duster (1860's or there about) which was worn to protect a "gentleman's coat.

Santa made his first appearance on November 11th, 2001 exactly two months after 911. "Letters to Hero's". "We're all about people" and that is what You did...I had the privilege of delivering those many letters to the First Responders, but each and every one of you became Santa that day.

A few years ago the Downtown Retail Merchants (DRMI) decided to give me a title. "Official Santa for Historic Old Town Fredericksburg". I have tried to live up to the title and hope to continue

for many years. You can find me “Strolling the Streets of Old Town”, or at The Richard Johnston Inn where I call Home. It is there, in that home setting, that I am taken back to the little boy sitting on Santa’s lap in the living room of Dad’s house.

What is next? We have been asked to “Serve Our Troops” by an organization called Santa America Military Programs. www.santa-america.org Laurrie (Elf Noel), Denny (Santa Iceman) have gone through Hospice Training along with strict background checks. Working with SA and The Joint Command for Morale and Recreation of the US Military we have created the unique Military Santa Suit.

Please become a Santa and write “A Letter to Our Troops”. Santa in both Suits is collecting them. Watch for me as I am about Old Town or bring them to the Richard Johnston Inn. You’re the Santa, so use your elves to locate me.

The very first event “Claus, Santa A. USMC” will be at is on November 27th (Thanksgiving weekend). What a way to give thanks...12:00 to 3:00 at Tabernacle UMC Multi-purpose Facility. www.tabumc.org for directions. It is located at 7310-A Old Plank Road Fredericksburg, VA 22407 540-786-6162. Claus, Santa A. USMC will have a craft table and letterhead for you to create letters. Letters are for the Wounded Warrior Program of Joint Command and Active Troops Overseas. We have Food, Fun for the entire family, and Pictures with Claus USMC. It is Free.

By the way Rob...You need to talk with Doc “The Reindeer Doc” about your question. “Are we seeing a new generation of Rudolph and Prancers or are original members still flying”? While Santa Iceman is all about people, DOC is all about the Reindeer.

Your Loving Santa and Elf Noel,

Denny and Laurrie Iceman



Official Santa for Historic Old Town Fredericksburg

Elf Joshie