

HAPPY NEW YEAR

2011 was a wonderful year for the Cottrell Family with Tom and Honey logging lots and lots of air miles. In early April we traveled (with friends) to a beautiful resort in Mexico (just south of Cancun), followed by two trips to Germany, once in April and again in September. Our April trip included a side trip through the French wine region, and the September trip included 10 days in Spain.

We spent a fun few days visiting friends at a Navy reunion in Kentucky in May followed by Honey's 50th high school reunion in Levittown, NY in June and managed to fit in a week in October to visit St. Martin which we love.

Our son Tom is doing very well with Hilton Grand Vacations and will be spending two weeks on a business trip to both Manila and Tokyo in January. His wife Elena and their daughters (our granddaughters) are doing fine as are his grandsons (our great grandsons) who are now 8 and almost 10. They are all going skiing in Lake Tahoe in February. Will be the first time Anthony and Justin will see snow or fly on a plane. Exciting times!



Michael, Dana and Nolan were in Florida for the Christmas holidays but returning to Germany for the remainder of the school year, where Dana teaches Culinary Arts and Michael is the High School Librarian. Nolan is 6 now and in the 1st grade in a German school. Although he did not speak the language prior to being enrolled in school, he is now fluent in German and as his second language (which is required) he is studying French. He plays basketball on the Base with his American friends and soccer with his German friends from school. He is also enrolled in gymnastics on the base, which he loves. They will be back to Florida for a few weeks in the summer again enjoying their new swimming pool which was recently completed. Nice life, huh?



Christmas Eve was very special again this year with my Mom (Edith 90 years old) and Tom's Mom (Marie 91) spending the evening with us, along with Tom, Elena, Michael, Dana and Nolan. With Nolan, of course, being the center of attention. He asked for only one thing, opened it and then couldn't care less about the rest. That was short lived though as the next morning Santa visited his house and there were many more gifts.

My sister Janess surprised us with a one day visit a few days after Christmas so another family get together was had with pizza and fun. She, of course, had presents for Nolan, so he was overjoyed.

Our spring trip to Germany is scheduled for March/April finishing up in Rome and when we return it is off to the NCVA (Navy) reunion which will be held this year in Tucson, AZ. We are hoping to spend a couple of days in San Diego as a side trip and possibly Palm Springs as well.

Tom had back surgery after we returned from St. Martin and although he is not healing as fast as he would like, he was back to the gym and golf within just a few weeks. Hopefully, there will be more healing as time goes on since he still has discomfort from some of the nerve damage. He also had minor eye surgery and was fitted with a contact lens which has helped his vision, another problem that he finally took care of. Of course, he kept putting these things off for the past couple of years while he was my caretaker through two surgeries and the 7 months of chemo that followed each one. That was all finished in June of 2010 and a pet scan in November of this year was clear, which means I am now cancer free. So Tom was finally able to do something for himself.

We wish you the best for the New Year and hope 2012 brings you all much happiness and prosperity. We thank you for your Christmas Cards, which we did not find time to send, hence this boring letter.

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Tom and Honey