

## 2023's Most Memorable Quotes

### ***"Does Grandma Know ???!!??"***

Having just discovered that his beloved Uncle Brett smokes, Thor's wondering if he is the only one that knows it....

### ***"You Know, I Am A Ship's Captain Myself"***

Aboard the MSC Seashore, Rick bumps into Capt Stefano Aiello on the pool deck of his ship. Introducing himself, Rick explains that - having just passed his US Coast Guard Safety Test—he too is a man of the Sea....

### ***"I Love You, But You're An Idiot!!"***

A livid Kathy castigates Rick for having bought 19,000 Arlington Park Beer Cups from their liquidation sale auction. Yes, that's right, 19,000.

### ***"Tramps Like Us, Baby We Were Born To Run!"***

Laurie, Kathy & Rick belt out the refrain to The Boss' Anthem at his Wrigley Field summertime concert.

### ***"If Grandma Didn't Make My Grilled Cheeses, I Wouldn't Even Eat Them!"***

Thor professing his love for Grandma's cooking—especially for her world famous Cheese Toasties....

### ***"Feelings Come From The Heart And While Being With You And Kathy Everything Came From The Heart."***

Dear friend Giorgio Sivori from Chiavari, Italy—who we hadn't seen in 20 years—talking about our friendship. We feel the same way & love him and his whole family dearly.

### ***"Welcome To The New World!"***

Kathy, pretending she is Christopher Columbus, makes a historical video recreating the Great Explorer's 1st Voyage. It's on her Facebook page—check it out.

*For unto us a Child is born,  
Unto us a Son is given;  
And the government will be  
upon His shoulder.*

*And His name will be called  
Wonderful, Counselor,*

*Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father,  
Prince of Peace.*

*A Child  
Is Born*

*Merry Christmas  
From The Johnson's*



## **MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR FAMILY & FRIENDS FROM HERE TO CHIAVARI TO OZ....**

**RETIREMENT...** I (RICK), FINALLY AND COMPLETELY RETIRED ON MARCH 1ST OF THIS YEAR FOLLOWING 44 YEARS IN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY. I HAD A GREAT SEND-OFF FROM THE BOLER COMPANY AS THEY HAD INVITED KATHY & I DOWN TO THEIR WINTER BOARD MEETINGS IN FLORIDA. FOREVER INDEBTED TO THEIR CEO, MATT BOLER, AND THEIR ENTIRE FAMILY FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO WORK THE LAST 19 YEARS FOR THEM. A CHRISTIAN, CLASS ACT IN EVERY SENSE.

**THE LODGE...** KATHY & I BOUGHT A LAKEFRONT TOWNHOME ON THE CHAIN O' LAKES IN ANTIOCH JUST SOUTH OF THE WISCONSIN BORDER. THE THOUGHT WAS TO HAVE A PLACE WHERE WE COULD ENTICE THE BOYS AND THEIR FAMILIES TO COME TOGETHER FREQUENTLY—WHAT WITH BOATING, FISHING, A HUGE POOL, AND THE GREAT OURDOORS RIGHT OUTSIDE OUR DOOR.

SINCE I DIDN'T KNOW JACK SQUAT ABOUT BOATING, WE JOINED A BOAT CLUB WHICH ALLOWS US TO TAKE OUT ANY OF THE CLUB'S 15 VESSELS DURING THE BOATING SEASON. I EVEN GOT MY US COAST GUARD SAFETY BADGE—MAKING ME A CAPTAIN! WOULD LOVE TO HAVE YOU COME VISIT. PLENTY OF ROOM!

**LONDON...** OUR SISTER-IN-LAW JAN (WIFE OF KATHY'S BROTHER GARY) HAD ASKED IF WE WOULD BE WILLING TO SHOW HER LONDON AS SHE HAD NEVER BEEN THERE. WELL, SHE DIDN'T HAVE TO ASK ME TWICE TO GO VISIT MY FAVOURITE CITY—SO OFF WE WENT. WE TOOK IN THE TOWER OF LONDON, THE CUBS/

CARDINALS BASEBALL GAME, FRONT ROW SEATS TO PHANTOM OF THE OPERA (I CRIED—THAT POOR PHANTOM), AND OUR LAST DAY IN BEAUTIFUL WINDSOR. MY HIGHLIGHT WAS THE DAY AT ROYAL ASCOT, THOUGH WE MISSED THE ROYAL PARADE LED BY KING CHARLES DUE TO THE HORRIFIC TRAFFIC. DRATS.... LOWLIGHT WAS GETTING MY PHONE STOLEN AT THE WELLINGTON PUB. DOUBLE DRATS....

**THE BOYS...** ALL THE BOYS ARE DOING WELL. BRYAN IS STILL TOILING AT DICSOVER CARD, BEN IS A SCHAUMBURG SCHOOL TEACHER, BRETTIE IS AT JEWEL, AND BRAD IS STILL AT NORTHWEST COMMUNITY HOSPITAL SO PROUD OF THEM...

BRAD AND I TOOK A TRIP OUT TO LOS ANGELES TO VISIT CURLY HORWARD'S GRAVE (AGAIN). WE LEFT A PIE ON HIS GRAVESTONE IN CASE A THREE STOOGES PIE FIGHT BROKE OUT—OUR CURLY WOULD BE ARMED. NYUK, NYUK, NYUK...

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**THE GIRLS...** SABRINA (BRYAN'S WIFE), TOOK A NEW JOB HELPING FAMILIES DEALING WITH PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH SERIOUS ILLNESS AND IS DOING VERY WELL. BOTH JORDAN (BEN'S WIFE) AND TINA (BRAD'S WIFE) STILL ARE TEACHING. EACH OF THEM SERVE GOD IN THEIR VOCATIONS. OUR FAMILY IS SO BLESSED WITH OUR DAUGHTER-IN LAW'S. WE LOVE THEM ALL DEARLY.

**THE GRANDSONS...** WHAT CAN YOU SAY EXCEPT THESE 3 BOYS ARE THE LIGHT OF OUR LIVES! THIOR IS 8 YEARS OLD AND AN ABSOLUTE PRODIGY AT MATH. ASHTON IS 4 AND SO BUSY WITH PRE-SCHOOL AND LOVES TO COME OVER AND STAY OVERNIGHT AT OUR HOUSE—ESPECIALLY CUDDLING WITH GRANDMA. CALVIN TAKASHI IS NOT YET 2—BUT A HAPPIER LAD YOU WILL NOT FIND. HE IS A DANCING FOOL—IN THE IMAGE OF HIS PATERNAL GREAT GRANDFATHER. WE LOVE THEM SO!

**THE HORSES...** WE HAVE 3 MULES IN THE BARN CURRENTLY. NOVGOROD THE GREAT HAS HAD AN ABYSMAL YEAR WITH NO VICTORIES AND A PALTRY EARNING OF PURSE MONIES. HE IS COMING UP TO HAWTHORNE FOR THE 2024 SPRING/SUMMER MEET. THE BOY BETTER START MOVING!

TALKIN' TIPSY, OUR FILLY, HAS HAD A STELLAR YEAR AND HAS WON A NUMBER OF TIMES INCLUDING AN OVERNIGHT HANDICAP AT GULFSTREAM. SHE EVEN RACED IN A STAKES RACE AT SARATOGA THIS YEAR—WHAT AN EXPERIENCE! AT THE SPA!

AND FINALLY, WE ARE PART OF A 3 WAY PARTNERSHIP ON A NEW, UNRACED 2 YEAR OLD NAMED EUCLID AVENUE. HE DEBUTS AT TAMPA BAY DOWNS IN MID DECEMBER THIS YEAR. IF HE CAN RACE AS GOOD AS HE LOOKS—WE WILL BE A HAPPY BUNCH NEXT YEAR.

**THE CRUISE...** KATHY & I JUST RETURNED FROM A 20 DAY TRANS ATLANTIC CRUISE THAT WENT FROM GENOA, ITALY TO PORT CANAVERAL, FLORIDA-WITH STOPS IN MARSEILLES, BARCELONA, TENERIFE, LANZAROTE, ST. MAARTEN, BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS, SAN JUAN AND MIAMI IN BETWEEN. WE SAILED ON THE MSC SEASHORE AND THE PRINCESS GOT ENOUGH SUN AND PINOT GRIGIO TO LAST FOR ALL OF 2024.

BUT WHAT WAS REALLY GREAT WAS THAT WE GOT TO ITALY A COUPLE DAYS EARLY TO SPEND TIME WITH DEAR FRIENDS GIORGIO & MARA AND ENRICO & MARINELLA IN THEIR VILLAGE OF CHIAVARI.

WE HOSTED A FESTA ON KATHY'S BIRTHDAY ORGANIZED BY GIORGIO & ENRICO FOR ALL OF OUR FRIENDS IN ITALY THAT WE HADN'T SEEN SINCE 2004.

THE NIGHT WAS THE HIGHLIGHT OF THE WHOLE TRIP!

**AND 2024?... THE ROLLING STONES ARE BACK ON TOUR BABY! AT 80 YEARS OLD! ALREADY GOT TICKETS FOR 5 OF THE 14 CONCERTS! WHO'S COMING WITH US?**

**Wishing You Faith, Health, Peace, & Love... A Blessed Christmas To All & A Happy, Happy New Year 2024!  
God Bless Us All!**

  
**Merry Christmas**

*All Our Love,*

*Rick, Kathy, Bryan, Sabrina, Thor, Ashton,  
Ben, Jordan, Calvin, Reese, Brett, Brad, Tina,  
Novgorod The Great, Talkin' Topsy, Euclid  
Avenue, Sean, Emily, &  
The Late Great Champion  
General Charley*



**Merry Christmas From The Johnson's - 2023**



