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Betsy Schultz

On my grief journey I met a most remarkable woman with a vision like no other. She dedicates her time to the Captain Joseph House Foundation which will provide a continuum of healing and respite to Gold Star Families whose loved one died in combat. Betsy Schultz, a Gold Star Mother, is that person with this vision to support other Gold Star Families. I vow to support her in her endeavors to make this a realization.

I got a taste of what will come with a respite stay at the Captain Joseph House in Port Angeles, Washington and the healing it will provide during my stay in her home. She embraced me and respected me with where I was at in my grief. Once all renovation is completed a family can stay for 6 days at no cost in the Captain Joseph House. Airfare will also be taken care of for the immediate family of up to 8. This respite house is located at the foot of the majestic Olympic National Park Mountains facing the coastal waterways. You are surrounded by some of the country's most magnificent scenery. I experienced fog rolling in over the water it was so soothing. The crisp cool breeze refreshed your face while the sun kept you warm. Listening to the fog horn from the ferry headed to Victoria Canada 90 minutes away. Beach combing for sea glass. Waterfalls, rainforest, beaches, driftwood, crystal clear lakes, rolling hills in the town, wildflowers along the roads of so many colors surround you here. Every day I experienced such calming serenity, peaceful settings and indulged in all the natural beauty. I never imagined Port Angeles to offer so much beauty. During my stay with Betsy in Port Angeles, this paradise bedroom community, I had a constant natural inner stimulation that tugged at my heart and eased the pain just a little more. I am on a parallel journey, one is the grief journey and the other is the celebration journey. It is people on this earth like Betsy and respite stays that ease the pain a little bit at a time. The celebration journey overcomes you with such joy when someone like Betsy and her endeavor enter your life and kiss your life.

Betsy Schultz does not compromise in quality in creating this Captain Joseph House and needs financial support to make this a premiere respite home for Gold Star Families at no cost. I wish for others to experience the moments of peace, gratitude, reflection, solitude, exhilaration, meditation, prayers and excitement such as I did during my stay here, this little piece of heaven. I am also a unique case, for I was blessed to have stayed here for a month and a half to volunteer when I needed a temporary place to stay before I headed out to Germany for 3 years. Washington was on my bucket list, one of three places to visit. Betsy took care of so many details to make my stay a memorable-pleasurable one.

Betsy, I can't thank you enough for this fleeting moment of respite in my life.

Lovingly,

Mary Laureana Aguirre-Garza

Gold Star Mother

Cpl Nathaniel Aaron Aguirre

KIA October 22, 2006