

All The King's Horses CHILDREN'S RANCH

July, 2018 Ana J. Lucore

FREEDOMS AND FINALES



When a child first arrives at the Ranch, they have no idea of the sacrifice of others that made this place possible for them to receive love, respect, and freedom within safe boundaries. Doesn't that sound like America? As we grow older, we understand the sacrifice of others that have made it possible for us to enjoy the sounds of war. That is what fireworks represent, you know — the sounds and light-flares of bombs.

This year's theme of the Benson parade was "The Grand Old Flag." Just look what our dear friend, Lora, is holding up. In less than two weeks, a very talented friend, Sue, knitted this flag for the Ranch's parade entry! It represents the original flag that Betsy Ross created. That's 'Betsy' in the photo below. After our use of it in the parade, Sue will 'unknit' the thirteen stars and replace them with the current fifty, then the Benson VFW will use this flag for various celebrations. GOOD JOB, SUE! Thank you.

As I contemplated the freedom that our country enjoys at the ultimate cost to others who have given their lives that we might live, I began to thank Jesus. This type of sacrifice that our men and women are giving and have given over the last two-hundred forty-two years are the living example of what Christ did for us all. He came to die for us that we might live ETERNALLY in freedom. Then like no one ever has, He rose from the dead! Rejoice as we might with all the flare of this Gospel Good News, the Grand Finale is yet to come — Jesus' return!



The young people at the Ranch arrive in various stages of "gloom, despair and agony" as the old country song goes. However, as they experience the Ranch and compare it with where they came from, they come to appreciate this peaceful place, this secure sanctuary that The Ranch becomes for them. They understand that it is because the staff loves Jesus that they are receiving heart-to-heart embraces of love. Just like us – over the years as we experience other countries, we come to appreciate the freedoms of our nation within the safety of moral boundaries. But let me not get side-tracked.



The Grand Finale for the Ranch children is that they blossom with previously unknown possibilities for their own future. We witness the changes in the young people as they move from gloom, despair and agony, to a place of anticipation, hope and joy. Seeing the light of life glimmer in their preciously glazed-over eyes, is something that you, yes – you, can praise the Lord for, because the Lord has used you .. and your investment ... to keep the Ranch effective.

GOD BLESS YOU!
and
GOD BLESS AMERICA



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It was a surprise to see how many verses in scripture contained the words Fire and Work (thinking of our fireworks).

Here is **1 Cor 3:13**. So appropriate as we contemplate the sacrifice of those, like you, who give that the Ranch's mission may benefit.

Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by *fire*; and the first shall try every man's *work* of what sort it is.