

Marler Christmas Newsletter



Every year we say "We can't believe another year has gone by already and it's time to send out another newsletter." This year we have had so much going on it definitely feels like more than a year has passed. Last December, Kristy was busy getting her business off the ground and was working like one of Santa's elves making

to see LOTS of family for the first time in years. After returning from Kansas, Jeff left for a 3-week, RED FLAG exercise in Las Vegas.

After returning from the convention, Jeff and Kristy discussed his upcoming retirement from the military. We had always planned for late summer of 2019 or 2020. But since Jeff was offered a few jobs at the convention, we decided not to delay our transition to the next chapter of our lives any longer. Jeff's request to retire from the Air Force was approved for March 1, 2019, which immediately changed the direction of all of our lives. Based on the job offers, we decided to move to the Dallas-Fort Worth (DFW) area and immediately began researching Special Needs programs for Braden and Keegan.

In April, we celebrated Kristy's 52nd birthday at a restaurant in Tucson before diving into our next adventure. In order to give Braden as much



crafts for the holidays. Her craft room was stuffed full of wreaths and ribbons. With Jeff traveling so much last year we decided to have a simple family Christmas at home. Luckily we



Unfortunately Jeff was gone during Valentine's Day but Kristy made sure that Braden and Keegan got all their cards, gifts and chocolate. A big highlight of February was Braden and Keegan were named their high school's King and Queen of the Special Needs Winter Ball. We are



were able to ring in the New Year with our friends Andrew and Jennifer Feutz whom we lived next to in Germany. Kristy and Jennifer were so happy to see each other and catch up on each other's lives.

Besides getting the kids back to school and Jeff and Kristy back to work, January turned out



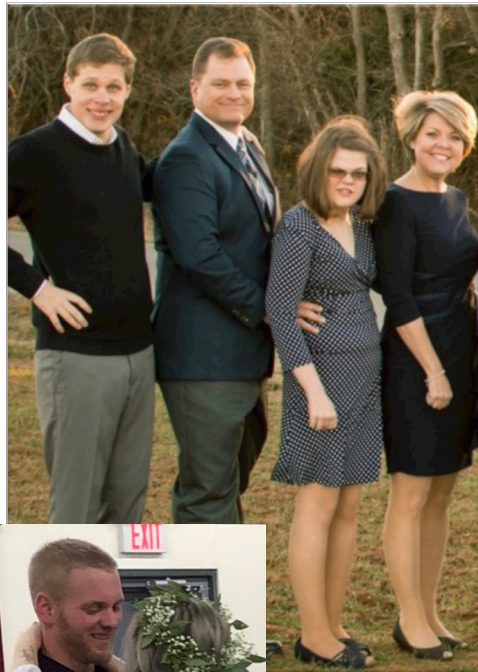
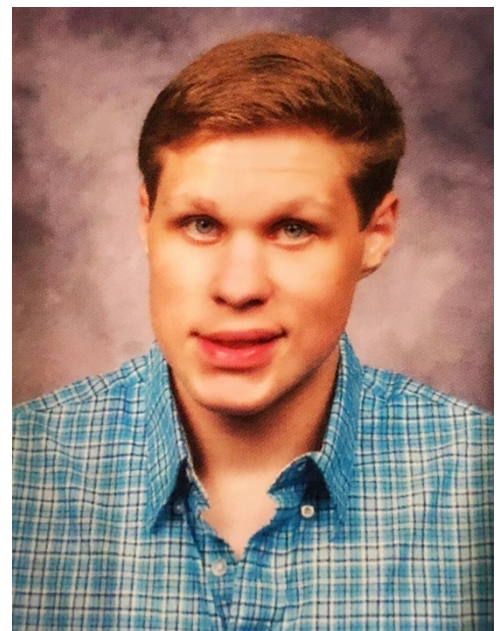
so proud of our young adults and Kristy dressed them well for the event. While Jeff in Las Vegas he heard about Heli-Expo: a helicopter business convention at the end of February. On a whim he decided to attend and take Kristy, Braden and Keegan along for an early Spring Break. While Jeff was networking with civilian helicopter companies at the conference, Kristy and the kids enjoyed our old stomping ground: Las Vegas. It turns out this little trip would change our summer plans of going to Hawaii for 2 weeks.

In March, we celebrated Keegan's 19th birthday. She was very happy to get her cards and gifts from family and friends. It is hard to believe she only has one more year as a teenager!



time in the Texas School System as possible (before aging out), we decided to move Kristy, Braden and Keegan to Texas for the 2018-19 school year and Jeff would stay behind in Arizona for his last months on active duty. At the end of April we took a 10-day trip to Texas to look at schools Kristy found during research of the area, as well as towns that would be close to prospective jobs for Jeff. While there, Jeff scheduled meetings with potential employers, hoping for a good job offer after his retirement. After deciding where we wanted to live and looking at LOTS of houses in several different towns, we put a contract on a house in Flower Mound and headed back to Arizona. Now that we decided where we were going to live we had to get ready for our last military move.

In May, Braden and Keegan finished their school year at Ironwood Ridge High School. The kids really enjoyed their two years in Arizona.



to have more reunions as we attended Nick (our nephew) and Chelsea's wedding in Kansas and got



We had a farewell dinner with Tyler Blanchard who had become a part of the family while we lived in Arizona, by then sitting and being Kristy's Social Media Business Advisor for her Rusty Rooster business. Tyler also interviewed



Jeff as part of a Veterans Honors Project, capturing his career for submission into the Library of Congress. We'll miss Tyler a lot.

In June, Kristy traveled to North Carolina to attend a bachelorette party for Cyndie, an American neighbor who lived near us in Germany. Many of the ladies (Jennifer, Sue, Tina, Sheri, Kristy, Denise, Cyndie, Shea, Sasha) from Waldmohr (Germany) converged



on the east coast. They were able to see wild horses on the outer banks and catch up on what happened since we had moved from Germany.

The movers showed up during the first week of July and sent our household goods off to Texas. The next day we left for Disneyland for Braden's 21st birthday. We had a wonderful time as always and realized we won't be going to Disneyland as much in the future. Then it was back to Arizona to pick up the U-Haul and drive to Texas. After 2 days on the road we arrived in



Flower Mound and officially became Texans. After 7 days cleaning, painting and preparing the house, the movers scheduled the delivery of our stuff during a brutal heat wave. But with Jeff scheduled to return to Tucson in a few days, it had to be done. We worked from daylight to way past dark to get as much set up as possible. After getting the furniture placed we were able to have Braden's electronic drums (birthday present) delivered. Last



year we couldn't spend our 29th anniversary together because of Jeff's deployment. So we had planned to celebrate our 30th anniversary in Hawaii playing in the ocean. Unfortunately because of the acceleration to Jeff's retirement plans, we spent our anniversary among a sea of moving boxes.

The first days of August Jeff flew back to Tucson and went back to work. Kristy got the kids ready for a new school year in a new state all by herself. Though this was less than ideal, it gave Braden and Keegan more time enrolled in the Texas school and Special Needs systems.

Jeff flew to Texas for the Labor Day weekend and was able to get a few of the things done around the house before flying back to Tucson. Ever since March Jeff had worked with FlightSafety International (FSI) to request an Internship during his final 6 months on active duty. It took a long time to get all of the paperwork staffed, but the internship was approved in mid-September. He received Helicopter Instructor training from FSI, at no cost to the company, and then FSI would decide if they wanted to offer him a job.

On October 1st, Jeff drove into Texas to begin his 2-month FSI Internship. He arrived about 7:00 p.m. Sunday night and began class at 8:00 a.m. Monday morning learning the Bell 412 helicopter. After only 5 days in Texas, we all went to the Texas State Fair during the OU Texas football game weekend. We were able to meet two old friends from college Air Force ROTC, Mike and Tracy Smith and talk for a while. It was great catching up



with old friends. At the Fair's agriculture area Braden "drove" every John Deere tractor on display. He was definitely fascinated with all the levers and we had to drag him off of them. Two weeks later we flew to New Orleans to attend Jeff's brother's wedding. Kelly and Kayla had a

beautiful ceremony and reception with a jazz band to walk them through the streets like you see on TV. This fulfilled one of Braden's lifelong dreams; to see a Mardi Gras style parade, to be in a parade,



and to catch beads. It was nice to see Kelly, Randy and their families. The last time Jeff was in New Orleans (2005), he flew helicopter missions after Hurricane Katrina. The day after the wedding Jeff had his 52nd birthday on the airplane returning from New Orleans.



Like the rest of 2018, November has flown by. Kristy has her craft business going full steam. In mid-November Jeff accepted a job offer from FSI so we don't have to stress about his employment when he returns to Texas in January. Typically Kristy waits until the Thanksgiving plates are in the dishwasher to set up for Christmas, but with less than 2 weeks before Jeff had to return to Tucson, Kristy decided to decorate the house early. Since this is a different house she has to decide where everything goes, so it is taking longer than normal, but it looks very festive.

We anticipate a quiet Christmas and look forward to celebrating Jeff's 28 ½ years of service in Tucson on January 11, 2019. We're blessed with family and friends and pray 2019 is good to us all. May GOD Bless you! Merry Christmas! Happy New Year!

Jeff, Kristy, Braden and Keegan Marler
3608 Britford Drive
Flower Mound, Texas 75022
JKMarler@me.com
www.TheRustyRoosterDesigns.com

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