

# CABIN CLIPS

*November, 2022*

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## Inside This Issue:

The Starfish Story  
Changes at OBHC  
Thank You To All



## THE STARFISH STORY

An old man was walking on the beach one morning after a storm. In the distance, he could see someone moving like a dancer. As he came closer he saw that it was a young woman picking up starfish and gently throwing them into the ocean.

“Young lady, why are you throwing starfish into the ocean?”

“The sun is up and the tide is going out, and if I do not throw them in they will die,” she said.

“But young lady, do you not realize that there are many miles of beach and thousands of starfish? You cannot possibly make a difference.”

The young woman listened politely, then bent down and picked up another starfish and threw it into the sea. “It made a difference for that one.”

Adapted from the original by Loren Eiseley

We at Operation Black Hills Cabin operate within this same starfish philosophy. If we can make a difference to at least one family, we have accomplished our goal. We had a few cancellations this summer. One family even hit a deer on their journey to South Dakota and had to return home. Regardless, we were able to host several families and all were the epitome of a family learning to adapt to their “new normal” after serious combat related injuries. They hailed from West Virginia, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Alabama, Texas, New Mexico and Indiana. We believe we made a difference for all of these families. Some of their comments from the Letters To The Editor as published in the Custer Chronicle were:

“Custer must be the most friendly city in the world! We felt so welcomed immediately.”

“You are making a positive impact and we feel thankful to have had this experience to slow down from life for awhile and recenter on what really matters.”

“Thank you for allowing us to be a part of such an amazing community and heal our hearts and relax our body and mind.”

“Everywhere we went we all truly felt the love and heart everyone has for veterans.”

“Our family received a one-of-a-kind message of gratitude for our service to this country. Never in our lives have we felt this kind of sincere thank you for our service.”

## CHANGES AT OBHC

**With deep regret, we had to say “goodbye” to Kathy Leonardi. She was a breath of fresh air as she visited and recruited many of our business sponsors. Kathy was on our cleaning committee as well and proved to be an excellent cleaner. Kathy and her husband Steve, moved to Cody, Wyoming. She will be greatly missed.**



However, we were able to mitigate our loss with an excellent replacement in Deb Hanagan. Deb is retired from the Army after 28 years of service. She reached the rank of Colonel and taught in the prestigious “Army War College”. Deb has a vast amount of knowledge and expertise along with many contacts in high places. She will definitely be an asset in our never ending challenge of “getting the word out.” She will also take over the task of Business Involvement and will be contacting all of our business sponsors in the spring. Welcome, Deb! Did I mention Deb is also an excellent cleaner! Deb’s husband, Chris Mueller has also been recruited and will be a great asset while he is roaming the United States working as an independent contractor and will help us get the word out as well. We look forward to many years of working together to achieve the OBHC mission!



**Every Veterans Day brings with it many thanks to those who served, to those who never came home, and to all of the citizens of our great Nation who honor all the veterans. We at Operation Black Hills Cabin want to express our sincere thank you to them as well as to all of you who are involved with our cabin. This includes all of the volunteers, the business sponsors, all of the donors and everyone who helps us in any way. We could not possibly do what we do without your help. We are so grateful for all of you who have stepped up and joined us in our endeavors.**

**Thank you to all!**