



2019 Fall Edition

Cal Farley's Alumni Newsletter

"You have to ride herd on a [child] until [they] know which trail to follow." –Cal Farley



If you don't transform your tragedies, you transmit them. **ENZO BROOKS (16)**

learned this personally over a two-year period of a physical, emotional and spiritual battle. When I sat down to have coffee with Enzo earlier this week, I was prepared to gather facts about his stay at Boys Ranch and about his subsequent professional ventures and accomplishments. However, early into our conversation, it became apparent to me that this wasn't going to be an ordinary encounter. There's something different about Enzo. He's self-assured but not pretentious. There is a peacefulness about him. Although only twenty-two, you sense a wisdom that only comes from having experienced many trials. Our

conversation quickly drifted onto spiritual topics as it seems that everything Enzo says has a spiritual essence to it. He began to recount the difficulties that he has experienced recently and how these experiences led him to an "awakening" of sorts.

Enzo says his life was forever changed on June 22nd, 2017. He was riding motorcycles with his friend, Jerry. They were cruising down Interstate 40 headed to Starbucks for coffee. As they entered a construction zone, a vehicle clipped Jerry's bike, which in turn caused Jerry to hit Enzo's motorcycle. Enzo says he tried to lay his bike on the road but at approximately 65 miles an hour, this isn't an easy feat. The next thing he remembers, he was lying on the interstate and the only thing keeping his foot attached was his Achilles tendon. He said he watched as his blood began to fill the rumble strips on the highway.

When he reached the hospital and the injuries were assessed, the doctors gave him two choices. Amputate and get a prosthetic limb and walk again in about 8 weeks. Or, keep the leg and maybe walk normally again in about two years. He chose to keep the leg, which began an odyssey involving nine surgeries, painful physical therapy, and numerous hospital stays. The once very independent and self-reliant young man was suddenly immobilized and completely dependent on family and friends to help him with the smallest tasks. Enzo lost six inches of bone from his leg so in addition to the surgeries; he also faced a three-month process of stretching the existing bone one millimeter a day. Enzo said it was at this point that he hit rock bottom emotionally. He says, "When you hit the bottom, there's no direction left to look but up. This was not the life I was meant to live. I knew I had to look for something bigger than me. Bigger than Enzo." He began reading inspirational materials and searching for peace about his situation. It was at this point Enzo began to experience a feeling of renewal. He said he began to see everyone as connected to one another and that we're all "little fragments of Divinity." One of the mantras that Enzo lives by now is, "Once you put everything in God's hands, you see God's hand in everything." In talking with Enzo, there is no bitterness -- only gratitude. When talking about the wreck, he states he wouldn't change anything. He says, "without the wreck, we wouldn't be having the conversation we're having now."

The fast facts on Enzo are that he obtained his real estate license in 2018, graduated from Boys Ranch High School in 2016. He is an entrepreneur and committed to his local community. However, to me the real story is that Enzo is an inspired survivor. He searches for needs in his fellow man and he fills them as he can. He loves people and wants to impart grace and awareness to others. He is a true example of how God works mysteriously. Enzo's philosophy is that anything can be accomplished when you have God at your center and that true spirituality comes from within and not externally. In closing, Enzo said, "You only have a given amount of energy for each day, so use it to swing your hammer to the tune of your own song."

Alumni Support Services

Kim Reeves

806-322-2531

kimreeves@calfarley.org

<http://calfarley.org>

Alumni Support Services

Kim Reeves

806-322-2531

kimreeves@calfarley.org

Newsletter

Cheree Gilliam

806-322-2645

chereegilliam@calfarley.org

Published Quarterly

All submissions and comments should be received NO LATER than December 18 to make it into the 2019-20 Winter edition of the Alumni Newsletter.

2019-20 Calendar

Thanksgiving – Nov 28

BR Prom – Feb 29

Houston Gathering – Mar 14

BR Graduation – May 23

Windstar Strategic Planning Session
and Scholarship Golf Tournament

June 12-13

(See Alumni website for Gathering details)

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Condolences

BR
Staff
Jackie Jackson
August 12, 2019
Waco, TX

BR
Staff
Benny Allison
August 30, 2019
Amarillo, TX

Sympathy and prayers go out for **Daniel Kent** (79) on the loss of his wife, Janice Beth. She passed away August 1, 2019.

Looking for BR Yearbooks

1958, 1960, 1961 & 1962

They will be returned, unharmed and at no cost to you. I only wish to make a copy of them for my files. If you have one (or all) of these books, please contact Cheree at cgilliam@calfarley.org or 806/322-2645.

CFBRAA RAFFLES

Starting Labor Day weekend, the Alumni Association began selling raffle tickets for 2 different raffles.

RAFFLE #1

Our Fifth Annual \$50 for 50 Smokin Guns Giveaway for the Alumni. This is for Texas residents only. Only 1000 tickets will be sold. Get yours while they last, as they usually go quickly. For tickets or additional info, please contact Tony Wade 809-584-1029.

RAFFLE #2

A \$20 ticket and only 500 tickets will be sold.

Super Grand Prize
Cannon 40-Gun Safe

Grand Prize
Winchester 24-Gun Safe

1st Prize
3 day/2 night stay at Thousand Hills
Resort in Branson, MO

2nd Prize - \$300 cash

3rd Prize - \$200 cash

Reunion Reflections

Bobby Sarpalius

CFBRAA Reunion version 2019 was definitely One of the Best! Did things somewhat differently this year by moving the event to the Tri-State Fairgrounds. The response of the participants was overwhelmingly positive and the reunion atmosphere, both for Saturday night and the Sunday afternoon picnic was fantastic. It's hard to pick out "the best" part of all the events.

We took an alumni picture this year at the football field. This is done about every decade or so. We dedicated the proceeds from the golf tournament to the cemetery maintenance fund for the BR Cemetery and Veterans Memorial. That netted about \$4K towards our responsibility there.

The recognitions of the Distinguished Staff, Paul & Pat Stuart and the Distinguished Alumni, Dr. Kevin Altieri, were outstanding; we've never seen attention so focused on the presentations as this year.

The silent auction netted about \$5K for crisis support. That has to stretch for a year, but the fund was just about gone before the reunion. The BR Photography class served as our Reunion Photographers and we should have photos available on the web site soon.

The alumnus who came the farthest to attend also happens to be, perhaps the oldest living alumni. Richard Strain was the 18th boy to arrive at the Ranch in 1940. He regaled us all with stories about BR in the really old days.

The numbers, dollars and events were all excellent. But the really great thing about the reunion was the reunion. People enjoyed seeing, visiting and reuniting with other members of the family. That is one of our primary purposes, to keep the family in touch, and the events of the 2019 version of the CFBRAA Reunion did a fantastic job of achieving that purpose!

Gathering in your neck-of-the-woods!

Folks are all the time saying they wish they could attend the Reunion; when are you going to have a Gathering in my area; or who are other ex-Ranchers in my part of the country? We try to have a few Gatherings across the country each year. The two main events are the Labor Day Reunion in Amarillo and the Dallas Gathering in February. But we have had Gatherings in California and Florida and Maryland and Oklahoma and all over the country. And we can have a Gathering in your neck-of-the-woods too.

Want to have one? This is all it takes. Notify the director, Bobby Sarpalius (cfbraa@gmail.com). Give him an idea of when and where you would like to have a Gathering. He will start contacting all alumni we know about in the area and promoting the event. We will use social media, emails and even those things people used to use, phone calls, and get as many guys and gals and family members there as possible. It is not that difficult, but it does take someone to be the focal point. If that's you, start getting the ball rolling.

Editors plug: There is a Gathering scheduled in Houston on March 14th during the Houston Stock Show. Hope to see you there, or perhaps you'll want to plan one in your *neck-of-the-woods*...



Cal Farley's Boys Ranch Alumni Association

www.calfarleysalumni.com

Cal Farley's Boys Ranch
Alumni Association
PO Box 9435
Amarillo, TX 79105

facebook

Bobby Sarpalius, Executive Director
cfbraa@gmail.com
817-739-6590

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER by Jimmie Boatwright (70)



First of all I want to *"thank everyone"* that attended the Alumni Labor Day activities! It was a fantastic celebration from the golf tournament on Friday to the picnic on Sunday. I am sure we had record breaking attendance of Alumni from far and wide: Germany, California, Montana, Iowa, Colorado, Arkansas, and Alabama. It was great to see everyone and we hope you got in the 80th Reunion Alumni picture.

The new venue at the Tri State Fair Grounds worked out great. The Commercial Exhibit Hall had very accessible parking for everyone and the auction and Banquet set up was very convenient. The Food Court area was very nice for the picnic Sunday. We are looking at using the Commercial Exhibit Hall again for the Banquet on Saturday evening and again for the picnic on Sunday so we have an indoor area to eat and visit.

We are looking forward to seeing lots of Houston area Alumni at the Houston gathering on March 14, 2020. Sherry and I will be there and want to invite anyone in the area to come by and do some catching up! We will have more details to follow on our Facebook and web page.

The Alumni had a good group gather for some food and fun at the Alumni Support Center in Amarillo September 22 for our quarterly lunch. Thanks to Jettley Walker for stopping by, it is always a pleasure to hear stories from Jettley. Tony Wade always does a great job as cook and he had several other Alumni assist him.

Look forward to seeing you somewhere along the way!

Bob's Bear



Bobby Sarpalius (67)

*** Annual Reunion Update

THANK YOU

There were between two and three hundred alumni gathering in Amarillo for the Annual Reunion, and all of us were very blessed by the dedicated work of a bunch of us. It is impossible to say thank you to anyone without failing to thank someone, but we are going to say thank you anyway. These are some of the folks who blessed you by making this reunion possible.

Tony Wade will be the first mentioned as he chairs the Reunion Committee and takes the active lead in making all things happen. Jimmie and Sherry Boatwright could literally not do any more to make things happen everywhere. Their leadership, service and support are unmatched. Beverly Hall and Daniel Scroggs and Cam Lindsey and her daughter, Amanda, were everywhere and doing everything they could. David Tallant saw to it the Fishing Derby went well. Eugene Boger was helping with registration and any place he could. So many folks showed up Friday evening to set up and worked enthusiastically Saturday to be certain it all went well; Some of these folks were Sheri Ellis, Kenny & Terinna Eater, Jr., Michael Rogers, Dereck and Amy Brasher, Tim and Julie Darnell, David and Debbie Rodgers, Van Smith...

So very many people donated to the silent auction, which was as essential to the Crisis Fund as were those who bid on and purchased items. Of course, Dean and Sydney Sharp spearheaded the auction efforts. Again, some folks are not mentioned here, but God knows who you are, and we are all blessed by each one who gave of themselves to make it all happen. THANKS to all of you who serve so faithfully.

You help make Family Happen!!

2019 Veterans Memorial And Wall of Honor

By Dean Sharp

As we do every year, once again this November 11th we will honor our military veterans for their service and sacrifice for all of us to live in a free country. Four years ago the CFBR Alumni Association, in partnership with Cal Farley's Boys Ranch and the generosity of many willing donors, dedicated the "Veterans Memorial" to honor those who have died while in service of our country and the "Wall of Honor" recognizing those former residents and staff members of Cal Farley's and Girlstown who served in the United States armed forces.

All former residents of Cal Farley's who served in any branch of service have the opportunity to have a tile with their name and branch of service included in the Wall of Honor at the memorial site. While only the names of former residents may be included on the tiles, anyone may purchase the tile in honor or memory of the former resident.

Currently we have approximately 53 names on the Wall and, unfortunately, three individuals are recognized on the Veterans Memorial for giving their lives in the line of duty. These three men are Larry "Dean" Warren, Charles "Quinten" Polk and Rafael "TJ" Carillo Jr. To highlight this year's Veterans Day we are searching for additional former residents to join the other alumni and staff already recognized for their service and sacrifice.

We have a list of approximately 190 former residents that served in the military and would like to see all of these individuals honored at the Ranch. If you served, have a family member who is a former resident that served or know of someone that should be recognized please go to the CFBRAA website and access the form to have a tile made. A contribution of \$150 for a 4" x 8" tile should be included when submitting the form. All proceeds from these contributions are utilized for the maintenance and upkeep of the Memorial and the BR cemetery. If anyone knows of a veteran who may not be able to afford the contribution we ask that you notify our Executive Director (cfbraa@gmail.com) who will inform the Veterans Committee and Alumni Board for consideration of including that individual on the Wall or Memorial.

All students at BR participate in a special Veterans program on Veterans Day each year. The memorial and cemetery itself, are reminders to all who pass through or visit Boys Ranch of the debt we owe to those who serve and who give for America.

Thank you to all that have served or are currently serving. We are very grateful to you and your service to our country.

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE FOR YOUR FAMILY LATELY?

We generally include our annual report of the Alumni Association at the Annual Meeting. This is more than a finance report, but a reflection on what CFBRAA has been doing in terms of our objectives; namely 1. Supporting the work of Cal Farley's; 2. Keeping the BR/GT family in touch; 3. Providing crisis support to family members and 4. Providing education assistance to family members.

The Annual Reunion is discussed in much of this newsletter. This is a reflection of what CFBRAA has been doing to achieve objective number 2. There have also been gatherings held in Dallas, Central Texas and Oklahoma. Read elsewhere in this newsletter for information about how to have a gathering in your area. The Association has begun actively working with the alumni in the Cal Farley's Support Center, including quarterly cookouts and seeking to mentor those new alumni. The Association gave all those graduating from BR this year Kohl's gift cards. In addition to this support of the work of Cal Farley's, the proceeds from this year's golf tournament will go to the Boys Ranch Cemetery and Veterans Memorial maintenance fund. The Association has helped 16 families in crisis situations in the past year, providing over \$10K in assistance. You have also helped 10 students with education expenses and there are currently 11 receiving support.

So, what have you done for your family lately? You are doing some very good work!!! Keep it up!