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Generations



What items are on your bucket list?

By Peg DeMarco - Special to The News Herald

I read recently that a man named Robert Allman of Murfreesboro, Tennessee, was able to cross one more thing off his bucket list just one day after turning 100 years old. He parachuted out of an airplane for the first time in his life.

This was something that he had put on his “bucket list,” which, according to www.merriam-webster.com, means “making a list of things that one has not done before but wants to do before dying.”

Jumping out of an airplane wouldn’t be on my bucket list but, according to the article, parachuting was something Allman had wanted to do for nearly 20 years ever since he saw President George Bush make his jump. His rationale for taking the plunge tied in to Bush’s jump: “If he could do it, I could do better,” he was quoted as saying. No grass was going to grow under his feet!

After the jump, Allman, whose jump was tandem with an instructor, said matter-of-factly, “It wasn’t scary. Nothing you could do. If you’re going to jump out, you’re going to fall, live or die.”

My husband insists that the only time that he would consider jumping out of a plane is if it was on fire, but you’ve got to admire determination in people like Allman.

Research revealed that there are dozens of websites and clubs for people who make up and cross off items on their bucket lists. One site listed the top 100, but I’ll just touch on the top 10 and see if you or I hit any.

No. 1 was see the Northern Lights. Okay, I admit that I had to Google “Northern Lights” to read up on what’s also called Aurora Borealis and, with a little help from my husband, learned that

the lights were electrically charged particles from the sun that enter the earth's atmosphere that produces an amazing light show. The best places to watch the lights in North America are in the northwestern parts of Canada and Alaska. They look amazing, but just a little bit too cold for me.

No. 2 was ride in a hot air balloon. I'll pass on this one, too, as even though they are colorful and pretty, and probably a thrill, visions of George C. Scott in the Hindenburg movie keep popping into my brain.

No. 3 was to see the Grand Canyon. The most I've seen of the Grand Canyon is the five-second shot of Chevy Chase and his family in front of it on their way to Wally World, so I'm going to have to pass.

No. 4 was swim with the dolphins. I'd have to pass until I learned how to swim well enough to keep up with dolphins. Ditto on any entry of scuba diving, although I did unsuccessfully attempt to learn many years ago.

No. 5 was go on a safari and I was happy to report that I had done this one sort of. My four years in West Africa did take me into the bush a couple of times, but I was always safely in a Land Rover.

No. 6 was go on a helicopter ride. I'll have to pass on this one, at least for now.

No. 7 was sleep under the stars. Now this one I have done many, many times while camping with the kids some thirty-five years ago and they were wonderful memories. However, these days I tend to be a Hilton gal.

No. 8 was go on a road trip. Not sure how many miles a road trip is but from here to Raleigh is usually the longest I can sit in a car without having to stop at a rest area.

No. 9 was travel to the seven continents. Anyone who can name the seven continents has probably traveled to at least two. I made it to Africa and Europe so I have three under my belt.

No. 10 was make a difference in someone's life. I like this one the best, so I think if you hit No. 10, you've got reason to celebrate. But that's just me.

If you want to check out the other ninety, find the site at www.themasterbucketlist.com and see how many you have done or plan to do.

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