



Go For Your Goal

We did it!! We just got back from a two week trip of a lifetime to Alaska ~~ the 1st week in a rented RV and the 2nd week on a Princess Cruise. Gary and I had a goal of our children seeing all 50 states before they left for college. And, time was running out as Danielle was graduating this year. Through diligent trip planning, reading Atlas's in bed at night, and getting a schedule ahead of time of school vacation breaks we accomplished our goal. YesSSS!! We thought Alaska would be our most expensive state to visit (and, yes it was...a gallon of milk was \$4.71); so we started saving \$5.00 bills beginning 3 years ago in September of 2001.

I can remember back to the summer of 2002. We were going to visit New York City and had to rent a car to drive to the state of Connecticut. Gary called and told me the car rental to simply drive to Connecticut was going to cost \$100.00. He wanted to know if we should still rent the car. I remember telling him, it was a little too late to be worried about \$100.00 when we only had about 7 states left. We rented the car and saw both New York and Connecticut that trip.

If we had not planned, and planned some more we would not have made our goal of all 50 states. To accomplish this goal we had to say NO to eating out, and buying a new car! (We bought used cars instead.) We said YES to never spending a \$5.00 bill and tucking the vision of seeing all 50 states in our hearts and carrying it with us every day.

I will say that this trip has put a smile on my face, but a bigger smile in my heart. The most important goal was showing my family just how important it is to be FAMILY. After all, relationships are the oxygen of life!!