

PAID ADVERTISING

AN OPEN LETTER TO MY GRANDCHILDREN

... about the Cruise Industry and Me

The cruise industry is the greatest example of hope for World Peace. It all started with a man named Ted ^[1] that wanted everyone, from all over the world to travel the seven seas and meet people from all over the world, making people's dreams come true. This was just like your grandmother's favorite Walt Disney World ride, "it's a small world" ^[2] but on a cruise ship.

So when I turned 14, your great grandmother allowed me to work on the weekends at the Port of Miami meeting and greeting all those lucky people that were sailing. I witnessed how the American Dream that my parents talked about was happening before my eyes. Hard working, lucky people from all over the world that had planned their family vacations were now there, taking pictures and ready to board their ship. Hard working crews from all over the world, working on ships to send money to feed their families while lucky enough to see the world. Lucky people like me, working by smiling and wishing everyone a great time on their adventure. I just knew that they were all going to have fun and share experiences with wonderful people from all over the world while on their cruise.

I loved my job, love the sea and love you! So I worked and worked and got big jobs within the cruise industry and then started my own company ^[3]. A fun company that hired people, all of them young and young at heart, so that they could feel lucky like I did, meeting people from all over the world and wishing everyone a great time on their cruise.

You see, any career related to cruise travel provides the opportunity of meeting people with different perspectives. That's called tolerance. You meet people from over one hundred and fifty countries working onboard and visit amazing people living in exotic islands and countries. That's called diversity. The cruise industry is what taught me, what a wonderful world this could be!

But a long, long time ago, in the year 2020, there were people that said that you shouldn't go on cruises. There was a virus, like so many before it, that killed people from all over the world, and that is why I say to always wash your hands! It was a tough year where people started believing that some people were bad. But as I have taught you, the goodness in people will always prevail.

Everyone should experience a cruise. On a cruise everyone has the opportunity of meeting people from all over the world. People are happy. Cruising celebrates our differences, just like you are taught at home. Cruising promotes World Peace.

There once was a cruise industry that thankfully survived because of cruise giants ^[4] and people like your grandmother that said to every person "cruise and be happy".

I love you!

Abuelita

REFERENCES:

[1] – Ted Arison was a visionary that acquired a passenger ship and transformed it into the world's first cruise ship, named Mardi Gras. <https://www.arisonfoundation.com/en/content/ted-arison>

[2] – "it's a small world" - <https://disneyworld.disney.go.com/attractions/magic-kingdom/its-a-small-world/>

[3] – America's Gateway Inc., dba Cruiseport Destinations created specifically to service the cruise industry by founder Jeannette Pineiro. <http://www.cruiseportdestinations.com/>

[4] – Cruise line Leadership and referred as Cruise giants in 2020:

Mr. Richard D. Fain, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd.
<https://www.royalcaribbean.com/gbr/en/about-us/richard-d-fain>

Mr. Frank Del Rio, President and Chief Executive Officer, Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings Ltd.
<https://www.ncl.com/uk/en/about/norwegian-leadership>

Mr. Arnold W. Donald, President and Chief Executive Officer, Carnival Corporation & PLC
<https://www.carnivalcorporation.com/board-member/arnold-donald>

[5] – "The fact remains that the vast majority of more than 270 cruise ships within the CLIA member fleet were not affected by this virus."
<https://cruising.org/news-and-research/press-room/2020/april/clia-covid-19-toolkit>

[6] – FACT: The cruise industry is a vital artery for global economies, generating over \$150 billion every year and supporting over 1.17 million jobs worldwide.
<https://cruising.org/cruise-industry-covid-19-facts-and-resources#socialmedia>

[7] – 78 people on 52 affected ships died due to COVID-19, Representing 0.04% of the 182,000 Guests on board at the time. Representing 0.00002% of the US population of 331,002,651; and 0.000001% of the Global population of 7,794,798,739 as of June 7, 2020
<https://www.worldometers.info/world-population/us-population/> and https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/COVID-19_pandemic_on_cruise_ships

"I really don't know why it is that all of us are so committed to the sea, except I think it's because in addition to the fact that the sea changes, and the light changes, and ships change, it's because we all came from the sea. And it is an interesting biological fact that all of us have in our veins the exact same percentage of salt in our blood that exists in the ocean, and, therefore, we have salt in our blood, in our sweat, in our tears. We are tied to the ocean. And when we go back to the sea - whether it is to sail or to watch it - we are going back from whence we came."

John F. Kennedy, 35th President of the United States. In office January 20, 1961 - November 22, 1963
Remarks at the Dinner for the Americas Cup Crews, September 14, 1962

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