



Wave of Memories

Dear Treasured Guests,

Happy New Year! I hope you and your family are doing well and that all of the turmoil is not impacting you.

I wanted to take this opportunity to sincerely thank you for being one of the bright spots of '08. Prior to IKE, it was the best year I could have imagined with great guests who shared my passion for Wave of Memories and Galveston. With each of your arrivals it was like rediscovering our haven all over again!

The week of September 8th is one I will always remember as IKE set its sights on Galveston and we watched it move in. All those cavalier responses I had about hurricanes "that's what insurance is for", "it is only stuff that can be replaced" rang hollow as the reality sank in that our beloved resort and new friends were in harm's way. It was a surreal experience to say the least. I was moved to tears at times by the many messages, calls and emails I received from many of you prior to and after IKE. I took great comfort in knowing that whatever happened, I had accomplished what I set out to do which was create a memorable vacation for people.

There are many images I will remember after landfall. The first aerial shot of Pointe West and OUR building - it was standing and looked completely intact - I am getting chills again as I think of it. The images of hundreds of utility trucks heading toward Houston/Galveston from all over the country and the white-clothed tables amid debris as Galveston hosted a thank you luncheon for the first responders. If you have not viewed it yet, please visit <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TXipDNAwW94>.

I have been so inspired by the spirit of the people. It is an attitude of acceptance and appreciation for all that is being done to help. Also, of their humor, as the owner of our cleaning service said, "I got a boat out of it but unfortunately it landed on my truck!"

Pointe West will be fine and the objective all along has been to restore it to its original condition or better. Comparatively speaking, there was minimal damage – the beach club was operational within days – but it is a complicated process. Miraculously, the only damage Wave of Memories sustained was paint peeling from the deck ceiling. We removed the carpet to mitigate any issues and are replacing it.

My husband was down with a group in early December to help distribute supplies as well as help with demolition and debris removal for folks in need. He has made three trips down and returns more encouraged each time that despite the devastation, progress is being made and Galveston will recover.

Part of the recovery is obviously the return of tourists and we will do our part. We will be adding some great touches to our place that your family will love! I will be announcing our theme for '09 soon and hope to hear from you. In the meantime, thank you again and here's to life being fine in '09!

Warmly,

Donna

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