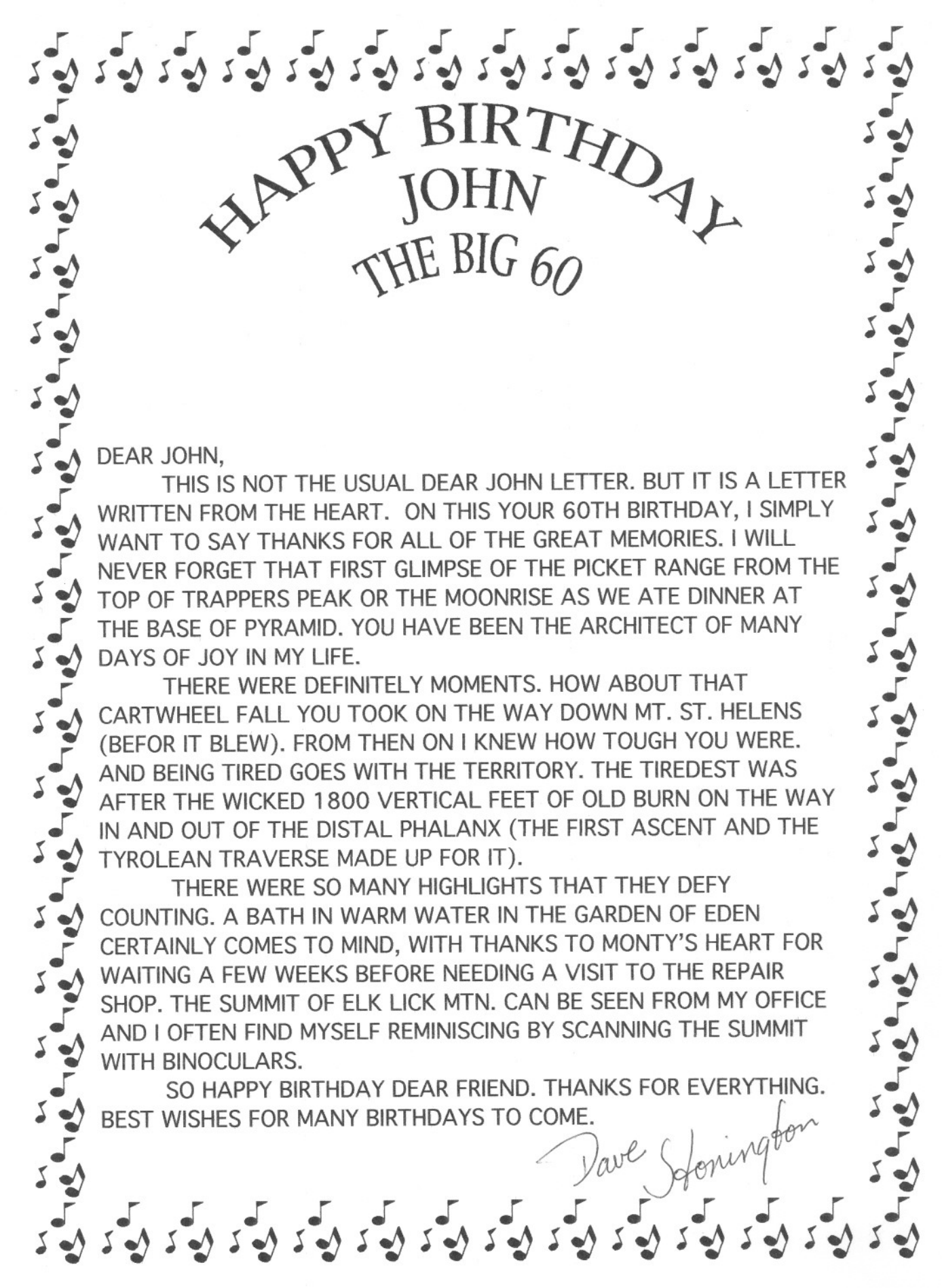




HAPPY BIRTHDAY JOHN THE BIG 60

DEAR JOHN,

THIS IS NOT THE USUAL DEAR JOHN LETTER. BUT IT IS A LETTER WRITTEN FROM THE HEART. ON THIS YOUR 60TH BIRTHDAY, I SIMPLY WANT TO SAY THANKS FOR ALL OF THE GREAT MEMORIES. I WILL NEVER FORGET THAT FIRST GLIMPSE OF THE PICKET RANGE FROM THE TOP OF TRAPPERS PEAK OR THE MOONRISE AS WE ATE DINNER AT THE BASE OF PYRAMID. YOU HAVE BEEN THE ARCHITECT OF MANY DAYS OF JOY IN MY LIFE.

THERE WERE DEFINITELY MOMENTS. HOW ABOUT THAT CARTWHEEL FALL YOU TOOK ON THE WAY DOWN MT. ST. HELENS (BEFOR IT BLEW). FROM THEN ON I KNEW HOW TOUGH YOU WERE. AND BEING TIRED GOES WITH THE TERRITORY. THE TIREDEST WAS AFTER THE WICKED 1800 VERTICAL FEET OF OLD BURN ON THE WAY IN AND OUT OF THE DISTAL PHALANX (THE FIRST ASCENT AND THE TYROLEAN TRAVERSE MADE UP FOR IT).

THERE WERE SO MANY HIGHLIGHTS THAT THEY DEFY COUNTING. A BATH IN WARM WATER IN THE GARDEN OF EDEN CERTAINLY COMES TO MIND, WITH THANKS TO MONTY'S HEART FOR WAITING A FEW WEEKS BEFORE NEEDING A VISIT TO THE REPAIR SHOP. THE SUMMIT OF ELK LICK MTN. CAN BE SEEN FROM MY OFFICE AND I OFTEN FIND MYSELF REMINISCING BY SCANNING THE SUMMIT WITH BINOCULARS.

SO HAPPY BIRTHDAY DEAR FRIEND. THANKS FOR EVERYTHING. BEST WISHES FOR MANY BIRTHDAYS TO COME.

Dave Stonington