

Rappahannock Westminster-Canterbury Home to Two Generations of Barton Family

When Virginia natives Cecilia Barton and her husband Kent McCraney decided to move back to the East Coast from Kansas, they did not have to spend much time deciding where to live. They came to Rappahannock Westminster-Canterbury on the best recommendation of all: the experience of Cecilia's parents. In August 2010 Cecilia and her father, the Reverend George Barton, became the first two-generation family to reside at RWC at the same time.

Reverend Barton and his wife moved to RWC in 1988 when he retired from his Episcopalian parish in Orange, Virginia. He had been contemplating a move in 1987 when he was asked to raise funds for another Westminster-Canterbury facility. Figuring he should learn something about the kind of place for which he was soliciting donations, Barton visited several senior living communities with his wife.

One of those stops was at RWC in Irvington, and the Bartons knew immediately it was the right place for them. The former chaplain and assistant headmaster at Woodberry Forest School says with obvious pleasure that, "Over the years we lived in 34 places, but undoubtedly our time at RWC was the happiest of our lives."

Sadly, Barton's wife died in March 2010. Her passing provided the impetus for a move Cecilia and Kent had long contemplated. "We did not really hesitate in choosing to come to RWC," Cecilia says. "We had seen how wonderfully my father and mother were treated, and we knew we would be happy there."

Cecilia and Kent have seen their share of other places. Kent, a graduate of Virginia Military Institute, served 22 years in the Army. The couple lived overseas for six of those years, and Kent spent two tours in Viet Nam. Looking around the cottage in which they now reside, Cecilia says, "This place truly feels like home."

Both Barton and his daughter sing the praises of the RWC staff that knows them by name and caters to their every need. They appreciate the opportunity to travel without worrying about who will look after their homes while they are away.

Barton says that in recent years he has begun to limit his activities away from RWC, and that has only made him realize how much there is to do close to home. While father and daughter lead separate lives, they try to dine together each evening at RWC's grill. They agree, however, that just being close to each other is a gift that both of them treasure.

Lest one get the impression that everything between the generations is idyllic, Kent is quick to point out that there is a constant source of friction that becomes especially noticeable at this time of year. The elder Barton is a diehard Dallas Cowboys fan. Like many RWC residents, Kent roots for the Redskins.

The Cowboys' flag on Barton's scooter draws good-natured jeers from his neighbors, but Barton says he is unconcerned. "Wait until the Cowboys start winning," he quips with a smile. "Then it will be too windy to haul bricks around here."