

# PIONEERING HISTORY

THE MARCO ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

2019 | Vol. 26, No. 1



2018 Review | New Staff | 'Dreams' Gala | Exhibit Unveiling

Herbert Rosser Savage  
1919-2019

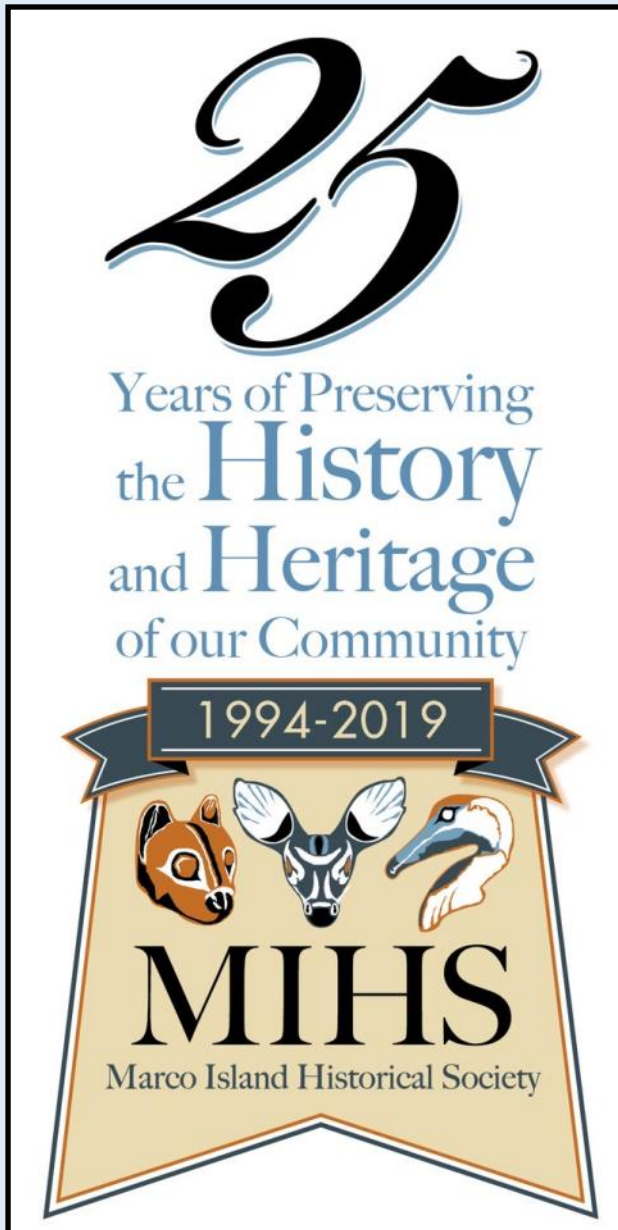


MIHS

Marco Island Historical Society



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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Mike O'Rourke	<i>President</i>
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Patricia Rutledge	<i>Exec. Director</i>
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## Greetings to all of our members and friends.

We are off to a fantastic start in what is sure to be a very exciting year for The Marco Island Historical Society. The Key Marco Cat and the returning Calusa artifacts are back and they are creating a very big impression! You can see the banner's celebrating their return on Collier Blvd. as you enter the island. The visitor traffic at the museum has been terrific as people flock to see the exhibit in the Calusa Gallery. The public opening on January 26th brought over 1,000 visitors to witness our history in person.

The Marco Island Historical Society and the Collier County Museums were honored with proclamations by the City of Marco Island at a City Council Meeting and the Collier County Board of Commissioners at their meeting for bringing home the Key Marco Artifacts. These were wonderful recognition's for both organizations.

So many visitors will join us over the course of the next two and a half years. What an exciting opportunity we have to showcase our amazing museum and our collections to the world. We are very grateful to everyone who has contributed to making this happen. This is why our "Dreams do Come True" Gala was a celebration of the return of the artifacts and the 25th anniversary of MIHS. The event was a tremendous success and we appreciate the fantastic job the Gala Committee did bringing everything together for a memorable evening.

Keep in mind that you can enjoy a full schedule of activities at the Rose History Auditorium featuring World Class Entertainment, insightful speakers and our very own re-enactors. These programs remain very popular, informative and fun! If you haven't taken advantage of this aspect of your membership I highly encourage you to consider attending one of the upcoming events.

We are very fortunate to have two new talented and professional team members join us this year. Heather Otis is our new Collections Manager and she has jumped right in to her new responsibilities and is working very hard on our collections. Jacob Hogan is the new security guard for the museum. Jacob has been very helpful and welcoming to our visitors. Please join me in welcoming both Heather and Jacob.

Your participation and contributions continue to make this wonderful experience possible. Thank you for all you do. We are very excited about this year and the future of the MIHS as we build upon the momentum. Let's make this a year to remember!

Mike O'Rourke

*President, Board of Directors*

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Michael J. O'Rourke III".



# EVENTS

**March 21, 2019**

*Gallery Talk*

**Jo-Ann Sanborn, Artist**

2:00-3:00PM

Sandlin Gallery

Marco Island Historical Museum

FREE

**March 26, 2019**

**Presentation by Bob  
McConville, Master Naturalist**

7:00-8:30PM

Rose History Auditorium

Door: Free (members) / \$10 (non)

**April 15, 2019**

*Key Marco in  
Living Color*

**Presentation by  
Merald Clark,  
Artist**

7:00-8:30PM

Rose History  
Auditorium

Door: Free (members) /  
\$10 (non)



**May 7, 2019**

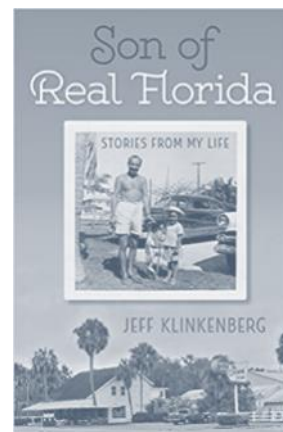
*Interesting People I  
Have Met in Florida*

**Presentation by Jeff  
Klinkenberg, Author**

7:00-8:30PM

Rose History Auditorium

Door: Free (members) / \$10  
(non)



**May 20, 2019**

**Presentation by Bob  
McConville, Master Naturalist**

7:00-8:30PM

Rose History Auditorium

Door: Free (members) / \$10 (non)

**June 21, 2019**

**Pirate Day**

11:00AM-2:00PM

Presented by Collier  
County Museums

Marco Island Historical  
Museum

FREE



# ONE LAST SALUTE

## AUSTIN J. BELL, CURATOR OF COLLECTIONS

**O**n March 10, 2019, the Marco Island Historical Society hosted a special celebration for Marco Island icon Herbert R. Savage, who passed away in January, just five days shy of his 100th birthday.

Beginning in the 1960s, Herb was the Deltona Corporation's chief architect and the person most responsible for the early "theme" of Marco Island. Savage was inspired by Hawaii, incorporating a "Polynesian" style into the design of numerous buildings. By January 1965, Savage had already designed the Administration/Sales Office, Marco Beach Hotel, Marco Island Yacht Club, and 22 model homes. The same style is prevalent throughout Deltona's marketing materials in the decades that followed.

In October 2016, after operating out of the same office on Collier Boulevard since 1979, Savage retired at the age of 97. A World War II veteran, Savage embraced his role as a Marco Island icon and historical figure and was a regular presence at community events. In recent years, he had an alleyway and a bridge on Marco Island named in his honor, as well as an exhibit hall at the Marco Island Historical Museum (photo above right), where he and his wife Emily donated numerous records and photographs to the Marco Island Historical Society.

With Herb's passing, Marco Island lost its last link to the Mackle Brothers, who along with Herb, forever altered the island's history with their ambitious long-term vision. More than that though, Marco Island lost an irrepressible spirit and devoted friend, a man supportive of so many important causes and organizations on the island, even until his final days. I will deeply miss Herb, who I jokingly called "my oldest friend," and it's hard to imagine Marco Island without him. He inspired me everyday with his enthusiasm and kindness and taught me not only about history, but also how to live. Simply being around Herb, a member of the Greatest Generation and a shining example of the best humanity has to offer, was a joy and a privilege.



Herb and Emily Savage at the Marco Island Historical Museum unveiling of the Savage Gallery (Oct. 24, 2018). Photo by Ron Rutledge.



Herb Savage, Emily Savage, and Austin Bell (Sept. 13, 2016). Photo by Katie Romey.

# 2018

## BY THE NUMBERS

Celebrating Another Historic Year at the  
Marco Island Historical Society



Artwork by Merald Clark.



**7,697**

Collections Database  
Pageviews

**705**

New Facebook  
“Likes”

**4,251**

Volunteer  
Hours

**3,100**

Program Attendees  
at RHA

**625**

Collections  
Acquisitions

**4,083**

January Museum  
Visitors—Single  
Month Record

**12**

Guided Tours

**9**

New Volun-  
teers

**4**

Student  
Interns

**3**

New staff  
members

**2**

Major Loans

**20,684**

Visitors to the  
Marco Island Historical Museum

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# ON GUARD: GETTING TO KNOW JACOB HOGAN

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*As a part of the loan agreement with the lending institutions, Jacob has been hired by Collier County to guard the Key Marco Artifacts. Museum Assistant, Jessica Patel, sat down with him to ask a few questions.*

Tell us a little about your background!

“I’m an Air Force Veteran specializing in Military Working Dogs, Law Enforcement and Physical Security. I was also a civilian police officer, and private military contractor for both the Department of Defense and the Department of State.”

What were your first thoughts when you were offered this important role?

“I was and still am excited at the opportunity and the prospect of a new challenge, involving a priceless artifact from the Smithsonian. All the loan pieces give unique insight not only into the history of Marco Island, but North American and Human History. I view myself as very fortunate to have been offered this opportunity, and I’m proud to be associated with the very remarkable team of individuals who have made it all possible.”

What aspects of this particular job do you find most interesting or enjoyable?

“Personal interaction and communication with people from all over the world, and their reactions to the museum, the artifacts, and the community in general. At least once a day (usually more), someone who has extensively traveled the globe will tell me how magnificent the MIHM is, and how it holds up with any museum they have ever toured.

But I also enjoy the local crowd, every bit as much. The community pride and involvement here in Marco Island with respect to the museum and the artifacts, is unparalleled in my experience. I love hearing from residents who have either lived or visited here regu-

larly for years. Hearing their stories and experiences with Marco puts faces and names behind a lot of modern history. And when there are breaks in the crowd, I admittedly enjoy taking the time to try and find at least one new tidbit of information daily, that I had not learned before.”

The Key Marco Cat often gets all the attention. Which of the five Key Marco Artifacts on loan is YOUR favorite and why?

“At least once a day when it’s quiet, usually before the public comes into the museum, I like to view the artifacts. I find myself drawn to the Turtle or Bird figure. Although if you ask me, it’s clearly a bird. I don’t have any outward explanation as to why it’s my favorite piece, but it’s the one I find myself standing in front of, almost every time. I like to take in all the little details, and compare it to the water colors from Mr. Sawyer, 123 years ago, when it was first unearthed.”



Security guard Jacob Hogan guards the Key Marco loan artifacts. Photo by Heather Otis.



## NEW BEGINNINGS ON MARCO ISLAND

*Heather Otis, Collections Manager*

Since joining the MIHS staff in mid-January as the new Collections Manager, I have learned that the people here are as lovely and welcoming as the island. It has been a privilege getting to know not only the material history of Marco Island through our incredible collections, but also the dedicated (and equally incredible!) employees, volunteers, members, and Marco residents. To return the favor, here is a little about me. I moved from Charlotte, NC where I held the position of Curator and Collections Manager at the Fort Mill History Museum for almost 6 years. Prior to this, I conducted collections work at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History. While earning my B.A. in Archaeology from Hamilton College and M.A. in Museum Studies from The George Washington University, I gained further experience interning at the National Air and Space Museum, The Textile Museum, and the Charlotte Museum of History. When I am not managing museum collections, I enjoy reading, eating Cajun food, exploring nature, and spending time with my family. I am overjoyed to be a part of the MIHS family and look forward to seeing you all around in the coming months!



Collections Manager Heather Otis. Photo by Austin Bell.

## OH HOW WE'VE GROWN, AHEAD OF THE LOAN

*Jessica Patel, Museum Assistant*

To play on words Curator Austin Bell wrote in the enhanced Calusa Gallery ('Give Me a Home for the Key Marco Loan'), Marco Island Historical Museum visitation has increased tremendously since the Key Marco Artifacts arrived on loan. In fact, we had a record-breaking 5,249 visitors through the Museum in January—and another 7,175 in the month of February! So far in March, we have already surpassed the numbers from March 2018, and we are only half-way there. In these two months, we will have also led nine guided tours through the Museum. Visitors have come from both far and wide - and even just down the street - to admire the artifacts. Word continues to spread, and it is rewarding to hear how much people learn and enjoy our Museum and how proud our community is of its history. Thanks to everyone once again who made this loan possible and supported the Museum and its staff in all the ways they could!

January—February 2018 Total Museum Visitors

6,624

January—February 2019 Total Museum Visitors

12,424

## DREAMS DO COME TRUE

*Patricia Rutledge, Executive Director*

**T**wenty-five years ago a group of committed Marco Islanders came together in friendship with a shared passion, to preserve the history and heritage of Marco Island for generations to come and, with that, a dream was born. That dream was to build a permanent museum on Marco Island to someday house an exhibit of treasured artifacts, including the iconic Key Marco Cat. On February 9, 2019 the Marco Island Historical Society (MIHS) celebrated the realization of that dream with a delightful evening of dinner and dancing at the beautiful Island Country Club.

Guests were welcomed by a spectacular ice sculpture of the Key Marco Cat and a glass of champagne to toast the success of the MIHS followed by an excellent dinner and a rousing live auction. Bidding was heated for unique items such as a one of a kind hand crafted quilt with a Key Marco Cat and Artifact Motif, a 20K Gold, Rose Cut Diamond Egyptian Cat pendant and chain and a 14K White Gold Diamond Encrusted Key Marco Cat. All proceeds from this and the subsequent Gift from the Heart Donation Call support the Marco Island Historical Society's quest to keep the dream alive to protect and care for the history that surrounds us.

Honorees of the evening were Bill and Betsy Perdichizzi, who led the young historical society to begin the dream of building a museum on Marco Island, and Craig Woodward who marked his personal 50th anniversary of making history on Marco Island.

The celebration closed with a heartfelt "thank you" to all of our members, friends, donors and supporters as the MIHS looks forward to the next 25 years of preserving our history.



MIHS Executive Director Patricia Rutledge. Photo by Vandy Major.



Bonnie and Craig Woodward. Photo by Vandy Major.



Betsy and Bill Perdichizzi. Photo by Vandy Major.





Representatives of the MIHS and the Collier County Museums receive a proclamation from the City of Marco Island on January 22, 2019. Photo by Ron Rutledge.



The MIHS and the Collier County Museums receive a proclamation from the Collier County Board of Commissioners on February 12, 2019. Photo courtesy of Collier County.



Museum Assistant Jessica Patel hangs Jo-Ann Sanborn's 54-piece "Palms" in the Sandlin Gallery. Sanborn's exhibit, *An Everglades Affair*, is on display thru May 28, 2019. Photo by Jacob Hogan.



Administration Manager Susan Pernini welcomes guests to "Pineapple Day" on February 23, 2019. Photo by Heather Otis.



MIHS Intern and UNC-Greensboro Graduate Student Meagan Boritz applies tattoos at "Pineapple Day." Photo by Heather Otis.



More than 600 people attended the MIHM's 2nd Annual "Pineapple Day." Photo by Heather Otis.





Above: Visitors to the revamped exhibit *Paradise Found: 6,00 Years of People on Marco Island*, now featuring the Key Marco Cat and other significant artifacts on loan from the University of Pennsylvania, on opening day (January 26, 2019). Photo by Austin Bell.

Below: (Top Left) Seminole historian and artist Pedro Zepeda demonstrates traditional carving techniques. Photo by Heather Otis. (Bottom Left) Erik Brechnitz, Mike O'Rourke, Amanda Townsend, Austin Bell, and Patricia Rutledge cut the ribbon at the new exhibit's opening ceremony. Photo by Heather Otis. (Bottom Right) Two kittens, courtesy of Collier County Domestic Animal Services, found new homes while in the presence of the Key Marco Cat. Photo by Austin Bell.







Above: (Left) Curator of Collections Austin Bell and former Collections Manager Katie Romey test out a special-edition Snapchat filter. Photo by Austin Bell. (Right) Museum Manager Jennifer Perry has her face painted by Marja Michaelson. Photo by Heather Otis.

Below: A crowd forms in the Sandlin Gallery as Executive Director Patricia Rutledge delivers opening remarks. Photo by Austin Bell.



# The Grand Opening

## Marco Island Historical Museum

### January 26, 2019



# DREAMS DO COME TRUE

2019 Marco Island Historical Society Gala

Island Country Club, Marco Island, FL

February 9, 2019

Photos by Vandy Major







# NEW AND RENEWING

## MEMBERS

DECEMBER 2018 - FEBRUARY 2019

### Single Membership

Anderson, Nancy	Dennison, Allan	Karas, Robert	Robinson, Caitlin
Benjamin, Marsha	Dubey, Donna	Kenney, Judith	Rowse, Diane
Brieger, Karen	Duklauer	Mieras, Barbara	Savage, Emily
Brummond, Wendy*	Ecklof, Jurgen	Miloro, Sam	Schmidt, Deirdra*
Bungert, Patricia	Ferrier, Anna Mae	Owen, Laura	Smith, Jay*
Burger, Carolyn*	Glynn, Irene	Pierce, Jacquelyn	Strub, Jill
Buzzini, Durell*	Gulumian, June	Polson, Peggy	Thawley, Gayle
Damon, Gail	Healy, Nancy	Radlovacki, Roy	Waterbury, Sally
DeMado, Jane	Islam, Sylvia*	Reynolds, Kathleen	

### Family Membership

Abercrombie, Michael & Joanna	Hill, Roseanne & David	Pepin, Tom & Carol
Atkins, Sumner & Carolyn	Houghtaling, J. Robert	Pidherny, Joan & Dennis
Block, Suzanne	Jeggle, David & Dorothea	Pullman, Howard & Susan*
Bowbeer, Hildy	Johnson, Thomas & Victoria	Reagan, Larry & Karen
Brown, John & Linda	Krisko, Rebecca	Reynolds, Bruce & Kathy*
Buffardi, Claire	Landwaard, Rodolf & Dorothy	Schuh, Fred & Jane
Cereste, Paul & Susannah	Letham, Meridith	Stevens, Erland & Ellen*
Cornillie, Chuck & Jackie	Levos, Roger & Debra	Stevenson, Ronald & Patricia
Crane, Ed & Cindy	Lipic, Joe & Joan	Stone, Robert & Susan
Delventhal, Bruce & Alice	Lovett, Ray & Ginny	Stratton, Frank & Georgia
Dunn, John & Shirley	Lyons, Steve & Bonnie*	Tanck, Marlin & Mary
Fenton, Craig	Marr, Jim & Linda*	Thompson, Roger & Judy
Flaherty, Richard & Susan	Maxfield, Peter & Karen*	Tipka, Alan & Sarah
Garrick, Michael & Laura	McLaughlin, George & Charlotte*	Tobin, Mark & MaryBeth
Gaynor, Lavern	Montalbano, Donald & Michelle	Tomaino, Joseph & Nina
Glasper, Fred & Barb	Mulligan, Frank & Marianne	White, Bill & Eileen
Gorman, Tim & Cathy	Mye, William & Christine*	Withers, Roger & Lana
Gruca, Ned & Dolores	Niemeyer, George	
Haeussler, Carl & Debbie	Parsons, Pat & Roger	

\*New Member



# NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS

DECEMBER 2018 - FEBRUARY 2019

## Patron Membership (\$250)

Dick & Mimi Bitzan

William & Barbara Brockett\*

David & Kathleen Caruso

Don & Carolyn Henderson

Mike Holiday

Even Jones

Kenneth & Mary Margaret McCombs

William & Ginger Miller\*

Steven & Theresa Morgan

Ed & Pat O'Rourke

Susie Pingleton

Pat & Ron Rutledge

## Benefactor Membership (\$500)

Mary Pat & Aldo Palombo

## Tommie Barfield Circle (\$1,000)

Douglas & Margaret DeCamp

Raymond & Louise Jean



\*New Member

Artwork by Malenda Trick



# BECOME A MEMBER

Since 1994, the Marco Island Historical Society has been preserving and sharing the history and heritage of our community. Join us as we make history!

## *Student (\$25 annually)*

- Email Notification of Upcoming Events
- Free Entry to our MIHS Monthly Program & Exhibit Openings
- Free or Discounted Admission for Other Special Programs

## *Single (\$75 annually)*

- Email Notification of Upcoming Events
- Free Entry to our MIHS Monthly Program & Exhibit Openings
- Free or Discounted Admission for Other Special Programs

## *Family (\$125 annually)*

- Email Notification of Upcoming Events
- Free Entry to our MIHS Monthly Program & Exhibit Openings
- Free or Discounted Admission for Other Special Programs

*All Membership Levels include special Gift Shop promotions.*

## *Patron (\$250 annually)*

- All the Benefits of Family Membership
- Listing as a Patron on our Website & Newsletter
- Invitations to Sustaining Membership Events

## *Benefactor (\$500 annually)*

- All the Benefits of Family Membership
- Listing as a Benefactor on our Website & Newsletter
- Invitations to Sustaining Membership Events

## *Tommie Barfield Circle (\$1000 annually)*

- All the Benefits of Family Membership
- Listing in the Tommie Barfield Circle on our Website & Newsletter
- Invitations to Sustaining Membership Events
- Exclusive Invitations to Exhibit Previews & Receptions with Visiting Museum Guests
- Annual Luncheon with MIHS Staff and Tour of Collections

## Yes! I/We Want to Make History & Join the MIHS!

### LEVEL OF MEMBERSHIP

- |                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Student | <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 Patron                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$75 Single  | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Benefactor              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$125 Family | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1000 Tommie Barfield Circle |

### PAYMENT OPTIONS

- ☐ My/Our Check Made Payable to the MIHS is Enclosed
- ☐ Charge My/Our Membership to: ☐ MC ☐ VISA ☐ DISC

CARDHOLDER NAME

CREDIT CARD NO.

EXPIRATION DATE

CVC

### PLEASE PRINT CONTACT INFORMATION

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Thank You For Your Support!



# YOUR SUPPORT YOUR IMPACT

YOUR MARCO ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Thanks to your financial contributions and the hard work of our dedicated staff and volunteers, the Key Marco Artifacts are here, but the work of the Historical Society is not finished. Our community's rich history is being protected, preserved and promoted. It lives through the stories, pictures, artifacts and exhibits in the award-winning Marco Island Historical Museum, the collections, landscape, lectures, tours, events, and educational programs. This stewardship is not easy. It requires constant care, planning, and commitment.

The Annual Appeal supports every aspect of the Historical Society's work – from conservation and day-to-day operations to allowing us to create new interactive exhibits and develop presentations. Every dollar you generously donate is directed to the work of preserving our precious past.

Your gift goes to work immediately and is essential to the Historical Society's efforts to inspire the dreamers and doers of today and tomorrow. Please make us a part of your annual giving plan. The future of our history depends on you!

Thanks to your support, we can **ENGAGE** our community and **INSPIRE** audiences to imagine possibilities through our rich **HISTORY!**

With unending gratitude,

Pat Rutledge, Executive Director

"Preserve your memories, keep them well,  
what you forget you can never retell."

- Louisa May Alcott

## Three Easy Ways To Donate Today

Mail a check (payable to the MIHS) to 180 S. Heathwood Dr., Marco Island, FL 34145

Call (239)-389-6447 to make a donation over the phone via credit card

Visit the Marco Island Historical Museum to make a donation in-person

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT



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