

Natali Torres

Destiny Mendoza

Period 2

### King High Remembers

Getty George III was born in Pittock, Pennsylvania on June 23, 1939. He developed a humble and hardworking character as he grew up learning about leadership through taking care of his younger brothers and becoming a quarterback for his high school football team. He always stood out during his athletics and he aimed at being the best athlete he could be. As he grew up, he became friends with his future wife since both of their mothers knew each other and were pregnant at the same time. They were a perfect match from the beginning. Throughout high school, they became closer and eventually started dating. Their relationship prospered, leading to their marriage on June 18, 1960. This led to a wonderful relationship and the start of a big and beautiful family.

After high school, Getty went to college and became part of the ROTC program. God was and is his personal officer. Getty relied on God throughout his life and especially during his path in the military. He went on to study accounting during his time in college because his desired career was an auditor. However, when he gained a job as an auditor, he did not think that it was challenging enough and switched his position to a missileer during his time in the military. Getty became interested in joining the military since he liked the idea of being a leader, so joining the military seemed like a natural action for him to take. Getty started his training during the summer of 1960 in Selma, Alabama. It was very hot, around 100 degrees everyday during the summer camp. Although the training was very vigorous, Getty enjoyed the physical activity

and had friends to help him along the way. There were also very strict rules at the training camps. Dress appearance was extremely important, luckily Getty had the help of his wonderful wife, who helped make sure his uniform was always perfect before he went out the door. Everyone was always being watched and graded therefore, one small mistake led to consequences. When Getty was still getting used to how things were run, he did not make his bed neat enough and ended up getting demerits as a result. A demerit was given by an inspector who saw that the action or task completed was below standards. To dismiss two demerits one had to march two complete hours in whatever condition. At times a person would have to march in extreme heat. Getty had to march for hours in order to dismiss the demerits he had accumulated, but soon he became adjusted to the military environment and some of his friends would teach him how to fix his bed and how to clean his shoes so that he could pass inspection. As a young man, he learned how to do things quickly and eventually became accustomed to his new way of life.

Being a missileer was an extremely important job, it required a big amount of training. It was also extremely nerve racking to his family. Being ninety feet under ground with a missile was a terrifying task, but Getty accepted the responsibility and constantly moved up in rank. He knew that the only time a missile could be launched was if the other side attacked first, he was highly trained for this and he trained cadets. He was a natural born leader and many looked up to him.

Mr. George was sent to various places during his time in the service. One of the most memorable places was Tokyo, Japan. While Getty, his wife, and their daughters were in Japan, they had to face a new set of challenges including adapting to a new country and dealing with the

language barrier between the Japanese citizens and themselves. Although it was difficult at first to become integrated into Japanese communities, Getty and his family met kind people that helped them and became lifelong friends with them. While in Japan, the Georges had to adapt to the rice patties, it was difficult since the home itself was not very stable so when an earthquake would strike the whole house would shake and tremble. This was alleviated by the fact the the Georges made wonderful friendships with the people from Japan. Many hugs were shared between the Georges and the Japanese community. Two girls they knew were inspired to become Christians after growing up as friends of the George family and developing an admiration for Christianity.

While living on the base of North Dakota, Getty, his wife, and his family kept busy and enjoyed everything the base had to offer. What they enjoyed the most was racquetball. This fun sport was extremely popular among the community, so popular that people had to reserve courts in order to play. At most times the only available the courts were during late hours. Besides playing raquetball, the base also offered a gym. The only thing that was hard was intense cold they had to endure. The house would get so cold that the cans of soup closest to the wall would become ice. There were points in time were the temperature would reach below zero degrees. They adapted to this environment and always made sure everyone had plenty layers of clothing on before going outside. Besides this, Getty and his family were blessed. His family was together, he loved his career, and God protected him and his family.

One of the most emotional experiences Getty had was witnessing the discrimination towards the African- American community in Selma, Alabama during the 1960's. He had heard about this inhuman discrimination but seeing the inhumanity towards the fellow man, first hand,

was extremely hard to take. During this time discrimination was everywhere, he saw that African- Americans could not drink from the same water fountains as white people could. One of the worst memories he had about these discrimination encounters was the discrimination on the bus. African- Americans were forced to give away their seats to white people or sit in the back of the bus. This of course was extremely hard for Getty to witness and it shook him to his core.

A retirement ceremony was given to acknowledge Mr. Getty George. A flag was flown over from the U.S capital. He has done our country a great honor. Despite there being many reunions Mr. George chooses to spend time with his family instead of going to them. No amount of thanks can be given to Mr. and Mrs. George for their service to our country. They are truly great people who have created a great life for themselves and their family.