

It's a Small World

Italy

In October 2018, I flew to Europe and after five other countries, ended up in Italy. I worked my way south and while in Rome, took a bus to the Vatican Museums and the Sistine Chapel.

The Vatican Museums are a series of rooms with different themed artifacts and tourists are kept moving in one direction and eventually you end up in the Sistine Chapel. It was in one of those rooms that I noticed a young boy about ten or twelve wearing a University of AZ sweatshirt.

I asked him, "Are you from Tucson?" The parents turned around and the mom said, "The boys were born there but we live near Denver now." I replied that I had retired from the Tucson Police Department and their eyes got big. The dad said, "I was on the Tucson Police Department."

As the conversation ensued, I learned that the dad, Bob, had come onto TPD in about April 1998 and stayed just a few years. He then finished law school and was now a judge in Adams County, Colorado. I told him I retired in September 1998 and asked if he remembered hearing a female voice coming from Air 1 (the helicopter), and he nodded yes. I told them that was me.

Their other son, about 14 years old started talking about Air 1 and after a photo with Bob, we went about our sightseeing. I saw them again inside the Sistine Chapel.

That was over 6,000 miles and twenty years from where we worked together but never met.