|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|

|  |
| --- |
| **Meet Laura Wilson*****﻿****by Kathleen Jamison* |

 |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  |  |
|  |  |

Laura Wilson has traded snow boots for flip flops and couldn't be happier. After residing in Alaska for 20 years, she relocated to Clearwater not long ago. "It was after I lost my husband Rick to Alzheimer's then had a fall on the ice," she says." I decided the Far North was no place for a senior to live."   Laura admits that she does miss the $200 a month share of the state's oil revenue that all resident seniors receive, plus the "Permanent Fund" check each resident - man, woman and child - gets every year. And she misses her children - Jennifer and Jeffrey who are still in Alaska and Glenn who is now a Californian. "But I am loving Florida," she says. "I live on Tampa Bay and you can't beat the view of the water and watching dolphins and manatees." Another new favorite is Friendship Force Florida Suncoast. Linda Maksel, a relatively new member, invited her to a meeting and she wound up joining on the spot. "I love the friends you make in Friendship Force and I like to be active." Most recently she has been helping to find interesting restaurants for Sunday/Fundays. That is slowing briefly due to upcoming knee replacements and helping her daughter Jennifer after liver surgery.  Laura was born and raised in New Jersey, but has called Arkansas, Mississippi, Texas and West Virginia home, as well as Florida and Alaska. She has enjoyed a variety of careers, including owning her own esthetician business, missionary and respiratory therapist. During three marriages, she got to do a lot of traveling: the U.K., Belgium, France, Austria, Italy, Israel, the Philippines, Africa, several Caribbean cruises and visiting Mount McKinley, the tallest mountain in North America."I've traveled extensively in the U.S. and now I'm looking forward to seeing Mount Rushmore." Hopefully some international and/or domestic FFI journeys are in her future. Welcome, Laura. |

 |