

Walking Day #66...Friday, October 5, 2012...Lame Deer to Ashland, MT...WOW

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20.1 miles, 39,591 steps AND meeting the Peppers...just after I got started a gentleman stopped to chat, we stood at the side of the road and I gave my usual "family, friends and freedom, politicians need not apply" speech...just before he left I asked his name, as Jimmy Peppers was about to drive off my memory was jogged by a sign I had seen the night before in Lame Deer honoring a Josh Peppers, turned out Jimmy is Josh's dad...Josh was in Iraq and was injured by an IED, Jimmy drove off to get his wife, Josh's mother (Rae, thanks for the coffee)...I can't speak for the Peppers, BUT I was touched, being a parent I cannot imagine that call, they indicated that Josh has a very positive attitude and will be getting a prosthetic soon...words cannot describe the emotion that I felt out there on the road, duty, honor, integrity, the sacrifice that one makes for an ideal, walking is the very least I can do...I do believe that I am slowly beginning to realize the deeper meaning of what I am doing AND I THOUGHT I WAS ENLIGHTENED before!?!?!?...it is nice to feel like that I am doing something with a deeper meaning than just wearing out shoes and picking up trash...thank you to Rae and Jimmy Peppers for teaching me you ARE a gift to me, Josh I don't know you nor your buddies, BUT a sincere and heartfelt THANK YOU, THANK YOU and THANK YOU again...you too will be with me on this trip...little side note, a dog followed me all the way from Lame Deer to Ashland...was nice to have a companion BUT I worried the whole time she would get hit...when the rain and snow hit we took that smelly dog back to where she came from, dog you have no idea how lucky you are...a special thanks to Jennifer Carter and friend who stopped me in Ashland with a generous contribution (we wish we could give more) and a Dove dark chocolate bar!!!, NO gift, from the heart, is TOOOOOO small, the attitude OF the heart determines the ultimate value of the gift...thank you all for your support of my gift to all those who cannot walk for themselves...best wishes to all!!!

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