



## Thirty-three Years *...a long journey home...*

By Kat Rowoldt

I had the high honor of being invited to witness a dear friend complete a thirty-three-year journey last month. I have known this young man for the last four and have always been moved to tears in considering the admirable path he has chosen to walk.

The irony of the moment is that in the midst of my latest reporting on Legal Illegals, and the horrors we are facing with this reality, I received an email from Zaid Subhi. When I first met him blindly to do his story, I was so moved by his love for our country and our Constitution, that I asked

him to stay in touch with me over the coming years so I could attend his Naturalization Ceremony when the time arrived. The moment came suddenly for both of us with only a three-day notice.

I have been sharing Zaid's story with my audience via articles and interviews since the beginning. There is such a wealth of knowledge in several realms and strong human character to be found in his journey to America, things we as Americans cannot and do not comprehend easily, which we can all learn from and reflect on in our own lives.

Zaid Subhi was born in Baghdad, Iraq. His family was/is Chaldean Christians. *"Chaldeans are Aramaic-speaking, Eastern Rite Catholics that are indigenous to Iraq. Chaldeans have a history that spans more-than 5,500 years, dating back to Mesopotamia, which was known as the cradle of civilization and is present day Iraq."* per Google Search. Zaid grew up with Muslim friends. In an earlier interview he recounted how they all played together as kids.

At the age of eight, the Lord put on his heart a love for America and the desire to go there one day. Only two years later, the very country he hoped to one day visit was dropping bombs on his city, Bagdad, but even that did not derail this passion the Lord had put on his heart.

When the second war happened in his city, it eventually led to the Sunni Muslims and Al Qada taking over power in his area in 2003. That moment

marked the beginning of the end of civility between the Christians and the Muslims. Three churches in his area were bombed, which was a major alert for Christians. Christian homes were marked with the sign of the Nazarene and they were forced to pay the jizya tax, convert to Islam or die (or flee for their lives). With their home marked came another harsh reality. His lifelong childhood friends banished him. They were no longer friends, but enemies.

Zaid had completed college by this time and had earned a degree in engineering. As things began to get more and more fearful, he and his family started seeking out copies of their personal records to have on hand in case they had to flee the country: medical records, birth records, etc. were quickly requested and gathered.

Suddenly, in the middle of the night, screams could be heard from nearby homes. They knew what was happening. Quickly they grabbed what they could and fled for the lives. Zaid, his parents, aunt and uncle, his sister and her family, all dashed away. They headed to Jordan and found refuge there for the time being.

Jordan does not allow Iraqis to work in their country. So, Zaid made his way to Dubai to find work. His engineering degree helped him secure a job where he could work and send money to his family for their support while they began seeking a new country in which to settle. Long story short, eventually they all made it to America by legally immigrating, seeking asylum. That is, all except Zaid.

Due to his age and gender, he was denied asylum since he was an Iraqi. He then tried to get an educational visa to go. The first attempt was denied, but he persisted and eventually was granted an educational visa. He at last arrived in America.

When I met Zaid four years ago, he was working three jobs to support his family while attending college. He did not want to be on government support but was honored to work and support his family. He was going to college to earn his master degree in engineering. My husband and I had the honor of attending his graduation a while back. He now has a wonderful job and only works one job.

His focus over the years had been to get his family to America so they would be safe. Then his focus was to get here himself and support them while they each became American citizens, each who truly needed to seek asylum because only death awaited them in their homeland of Iraq now being under Sunni rulership. Next, his goal was graduation, then citizenship. Once these were attained, he would seek a wife.

The number of years he has given to his family's welfare, putting them first, is so rare today in America's culture, but a natural thing from his Chaldean culture. So honorable.

America is blessed to have this honorable man, Zaid Subhi, as a citizen, along with his entire family. There are a few great stories of people who are doing it legally amidst the horrors of all the illegal aliens who are forcing their way in and demanding all the freebies they can get. We need more people like Zaid. Who want to come, who want to assimilate, who want to contribute and give back to this awesome country!

Welcome home Zaid. It was a long thirty-three-year journey home.

Until next time...

# Kat Rowoldt

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