



National Cherry Queen Kelsey Hewitt is assisting David Stout, general manager of Mackinac Islands Grand Hotel in retrieving an American flag from the hotel as a gift to the Cherry festival queens program. The theme of this year's Queen Coronation is "A Festival Salute to America!". The flag will be used as a backdrop for the Coronation stage for this patriotic event. The Queen has a long standing tradition of visiting the Grand Hotel each year at Lilac Festival time. In a show of support, the Grand Hotel has gifted this active flag for this year's coronation Friday July 12, 7-10 p.m. at the historic Park Place Hotel. An example to two famous Michigan Institutions, with nearly 200 years of history, working together. We thank the Grand Hotel for their thoughtfulness. God Bless America!

**Cherry Memories**

*"Every time I think of Cherry Festival, I think of my son, Clint, who was two-years-old at the time in 1986, with his festival shirt on watching a parade, and saying to me, "The Cherry Festival - don't cha just love it?" Since then, that has been the family saying for the past 16 years. My husband Jeff and I had just become Festival ambassadors at the time, and that saying was so special because it came out of this two-year-old's mouth.*

*The shirt was just one of our many Festival uniforms we have in a drawer of Festival shirts that we all pull out each year just to see which ones fit. I've kept the littlest ones with all of my other kids' treasures."*

**Chris Weaner, NCF volunteer and Director of the Northwestern Michigan Chapter of the Alzheimer's Society**



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