

Two Sisters Reunited



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Imagine searching for your sister for nearly 47 years. This was the experience of Defense Contract Management Agency (DCMA) St. Petersburg Procurement Technician Ms. Linda Holley and her sister, Ms. Susan Stewart, a former Department of Defense employee.

The two sisters were immediately separated at birth after their mother, Doris, allowed a family friend to adopt Ms. Stewart. The foster mother, Cressie, then relocated the family from the Bronx, N.Y., to Jacksonville, Fla., where Ms. Stewart grew up. Out of respect for her foster family, Ms. Stewart never asked many questions about her birth mother or family. Yet every time she looked at her birth certificate, which noted that she had five siblings born before her, she would start to wonder who and where they were. She often envied her childhood friends who had siblings and knew that one day she would look for her brothers and sisters.

Ms. Holley, on the other hand, had the opportunity to be around her other siblings but always felt that by not knowing one of her sisters, a part of her was missing. In 2003, she transferred from DCMA New York to DCMA St. Petersburg in Florida, and it was after this move that Ms. Holley found her long-lost sister while searching the Adoption.com Web site. On Oct. 13, 2005, she contacted Ms. Stewart via e-mail in the hopes that she had finally found her sister.

Although at first Ms. Stewart thought the message might be a hoax, she decided to send

a reply. This initial contact led to several online conversations; however, after talking online for several days, Ms. Stewart was still unsure whether Ms. Holley was her sister. They finally decided to exchange pictures and right away Ms. Stewart's daughters noticed the resemblance between the two women. From there the story of their lives came together, and so did they.

To date, Ms. Holley and Ms. Stewart have met twice since they found each other. Ms. Holley sees a strong resemblance between her, Ms. Stewart and their mother. Not only do the

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three look alike, but they also think alike. Both women still cannot believe that they have found one another, and each feels that she has found the missing part of her life.

(Above) Recently reunited sisters, from left: Ms. Susan Stewart, a former Department of Defense employee, and DCMA St. Petersburg Procurement Technician Ms. Linda Holley