

January 13, 2019

Scott's Thoughts



I have a friend in Illinois who writes a daily note of encouragement and I am on the distribution list. Today he posted the following — *Emily Post, the etiquette expert, was*

once asked, “What is the correct procedure if one receives an invitation from the White House, but has a previous engagement?” She responded, “An invitation to the White House . . . automatically cancels all other engagements.” That made me think.

You might read that thinking that is not going to ever happen to me, and for most of us that would be a true statement. Several years ago when George W. Bush was running for re-election, my middle daughter worked with his campaign. I’m not sure what level she was in hierarchy of things but she received an invitation from President Bush and Mrs. Bush to attend the Black Tie & Boots holiday party at the White House. This was not an exclusive invitation, she was one of several hundred who accepted the invitation to attend.

The name of the party sets some parameters that would have to be met. Number one “Black Tie” says this is a very formal event. Two “Boots” means you are expected to be wearing western boots when you arrive. The invitation was for Annie plus one. She asked Yvonne, her older sister, if she would like to attend with her. Both were

excited and spent a lot of time trying to find the right attire. For a man this means going downtown to rent a tux, attire solved. For a woman a party of this level in all likelihood is a one time ever invitation, this takes some effort. I’m happy to report they both found appropriate dresses for the occasion. The second parameter was a completely different task. I don’t believe either of them had ever bought or worn a pair of western boots in their life and would most likely never wear them again. (They just don’t wear that style.) After a lot of effort they finally had their boots. They booked a hotel and a flight they were ready to go, nothing was left until the last minute.

The trip was one they still talk about and each of them has a picture on their wall of them with President and Mrs. Bush. They also talk about what incredible host the Bushes were. One of the things I remember that really impressed them both was that the President and First Lady stood in the receiving line greeting each guest and did not take a break until every single guest had been greeted personally.

This was a mile stone experience in life that will never be forgotten by them. We have an even greater invitation extended to each of us and it is not just for a moment in time, rather, it covers all eternity. The creator of the universe has made an invitation to us! Will we prepare for and accept it?

Thanks for listening and keep on shining.

—Scott