

## Traveling to The Land of the Pharaohs

Montgomeryans **Phillip and Gloria Rawlings** and **Ben and Ginny Cumbus** have recently returned from a trip of a lifetime, visiting Egypt – Land of the Pharaohs. **Dr. Zahi Hawass**, the most famous Archeologist of Egypt in the world, led a portion of their two-week tour. The Rawlings and the Cumbus were part of an elite group of international travelers who enjoyed an in-depth archaeological experience with access to archaeological attractions normally closed to sightseeing, including the Great Sphinx enclosure and the active research site of The Tombs of the Pyramid Builders in Giza – visited with Dr. Zahi Hawass, its discoverer.

Thanks to very special arrangements with the Egyptian Ministry of Antiquities, the group, led by Dr. Hawass, was able to tour the private entrance to the Giza plateau outside of public hours, the private entrance to the Great Pyramid of Khufu just for their group, the Great Sphinx enclosure, which is normally closed to the public, the Tombs of the Pyramid Builders at Giza (closed to the public), and the private entrance to the Luxor temple, opened just for them.

Another highlight of the Rawlings and Cumbus trip was a meeting and lecture with Madam Jehan Sadat, Egypt's former First Lady, in her home located by the Nile River.



**Photo: Phillip and Gloria Rawlings and Ben and Ginny Cumbus present a flag of the City of Montgomery to Mrs. Jehan Sadat, in her home in Cairo.**

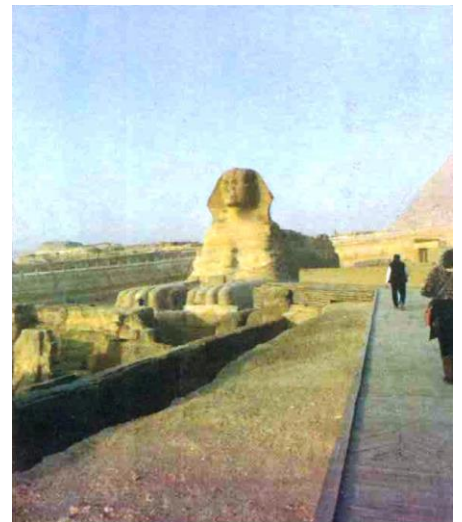
Montgomery mayor **Todd Strange** and his Administrative Assistant **Steve Jones** were instrumental in preparing and giving the Montgomery travelers official documents, which they presented to **Mrs. Jehan Sadat** at her lovely residence in Cairo. She was extremely delighted



to receive the flag, which had flown over Montgomery's City Hall, and a Proclamation prepared by Mayor Strange's office. The flag, along with official City of Montgomery pins and a Key to the City of Montgomery, were gifts Mrs. Sadat said she would always cherish, and share with other Governmental Officials.

**Photo (left) : Phillip and Gloria Rawlings present a Key to the City of Montgomery to former First Lady of Egypt, Mrs. Jehan Sadat.**

The two couples also presented to Dr. Zahi Hawass the City Flag Pin of Montgomery. He was very impressed and said he had never received one before from any other Capitol or Nation; this made our travelers feel very proud of what they had shared with Dr. Hawass. He expressed interest in visiting Montgomery in the near future and giving a presentation on the work he is now uncovering in Egypt and the Giza Plateau. (You might recognize Dr. Hawass' name from his many presentations on the History Channel and Travel Channel, along with the BBC and PBS).



Phillip said of the trip, "If anyone is considering a trip to Egypt or the Mideast, please go. We felt safe the entire time."

**Photo (right): Dr. Zahi Hawass waits in the Great Sphinx enclosure for the tour group including Ben and Ginny Cumbus and Phillip and Gloria Rawlings for their VIP tour.**



**Photo (left): Dr. Zahi Hawass receives a City of Montgomery pin from Phillip Rawlings, wife Gloria and Ben and Ginny Cumbus.**