

Goodbye Taonga Family,

After this season ends (the Eastern Season), I will be stepping away from my 4 islands (WXQWWD5, MV5K9RX, Z4QV35X, RZD2XMR). I have been playing this game for about 8 years, and still have neighbors from the beginning. My current user name is MommaD, and I would love to connect and keep up with you through [Facebook](#). Cindy Bannister, I will miss you neighbor but see you on FB! Nelson, thank you for your kind wishes for a quick recovery. Hopefully that one comes to fruition!

My husband and I moved to Ecuador for many reasons, including health issues. Among many other conditions, I have suffered from constant neck pain, headaches, shocks that go from neck to the arms, and mild cervical myopathy for well over 10 years. Was told by my US spine dr and spine surgeon that I had a bulging disc, mild stenosis and arthropathy. At my appointment the week before I left the states, my surgeon told me the CT did not show much change from the previous one 3 years before, but we could go ahead with the surgery if I wanted to. Although, he could only guarantee a 50% guarantee that it would help with the pain.

The CT I had done here in Ecuador showed the condition is much worse than what was assessed by surgeons back in Kansas. In addition to having a bulging disc, arthropathy and stenosis, there are also bone spurs on C4-C6 pressing and growing toward my spinal cord. My new neurosurgeon here sat down with my hubby and I and our general practioner dr, who translated for us. He showed us the CT images, what they meant, then how to fix them. They will have to remove the herniated discs and bone spurs, then insert a "cage" in between C4-C6. The total cost is \$35,000, which is pretty awesome considering what it would cost back home, and it comes with a 100% guarantee it will get me out of pain. However, we do not have that lying around, and surgery in Ecuador requires upfront payment before scheduling the surgery at all. Insurance should cover most of it, it is just coming up with that initial amount! We thought about flying back to the states to have the surgery, just because the facilities in US complete the surgery and then bill insurance, but due to the severity of my condition, I cannot fly. That would be very risky, because moving or bumping, turning my neck wrong, could risk me becoming quadriplegic. All the dr's here have told me to be very very careful. They won't even let me get a massage! Besides, wearing my protective neck collar means limited time at the computer. And ***I know if I keep playing, I will keep paying***, too addictive not to. Thank you for being my neighbors, it hurts my heart to say goodbye! I just might check in after healing from my surgery. Depending on how long it takes to save up!

To Taonga developers: Your creations have provided an enjoyable experience. Decorating my islands, going on adventures, and redecorating with new items has been wonderful. I truly appreciated the opportunity to interact with neighbors from around the world. Thank you all!!

Donna Schifflbein White.

PS I have a spreadsheet for all islands/festivals. Contact me through FB.

