

Weekly Report
Week of 12-20

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Normally my weekly column is dedicated to the political happenings in our state capitol. In fact, with the legislative session beginning in just a couple of weeks there is much to discuss. Battles loom on tort reform, education financing, transportation and a host of other important matters that affect the daily lives of many Missourians. However, this week I am going to take a break from talking issues and reflect with all of you on the special significance of the Christmas season.

I approach Christmas with special delight. The lights, the carols, packages under the tree and even the promise of a dusting of winter snow bring back fond memories and stir a sense of joy and wonder. But by joy I do not merely mean the good feelings that are often associated with the circumstances surrounding this special time. Circumstances change, difficult times come and sometimes the holidays serve as painful reminders of a loved one lost or of better days long past.

However, the beauty of Christmas is that it reminds us of the fact that there is a more permanent, lasting joy. The message of the very first Christmas was one of peace and goodwill towards mankind. "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord," said the angel. It is this gift that provides the basis for true hope and joy.

As I close, let me pass along to all of you my friends and neighbors a special word of thanks from me and my family. Representing you in the State Senate is an honor and a privilege. I am grateful to you for giving me this opportunity. I hope that this Christmas is especially merry for all of you. I trust that it will be filled with special warmth and meaning as you gather with your loved ones and reflect on the true meaning of this wonderful holiday.

If you have comments or questions about this week's column or any other matter involving state government, please do not hesitate to contact me. You can reach my office by e-mail at matt_bartle@senate.state.mo.us or by phone at (888) 711-9278.