



THE STOUFFER REPORT

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When Celebrating Christmas This Year, Remember its True Meaning

Every year society seems to move further away from “Merry Christmas” and closer to “Happy Holidays.”

Today, public schools prohibit Christian symbols in their halls, cities display “holiday trees,” and retail chains issue memos forbidding use of the phrase “Merry Christmas.” I believe this excessive attention to political correctness is dishonest and threatens our nation’s cultural heritage.

This nation was founded on Christianity. New England was originally settled and people lost their lives so religious dissenters could worship without fear of persecution. By erasing our most important Christian traditions from public life, we threaten the continuity of the very heritage from which our nation was born.

State and federal statutes allow state government employees to take December 25th off work because it is Christmas Day. There is no mention of a “winter holiday.” So when city leaders and school superintendents worry holiday celebrations must be seen as non-religious events, they are not doing so to make things more pleasant for the rest of us.

Instead, these politically correct public servants are worrying about their own personal bottom line. They don’t want to be called out as insensitive or intolerant. So rather than making connections to those they serve, they create generic terms such as “winter vacation.”

Although I do urge the public circle to no longer shy away from observing our Christmas tradition, I also emphasize that we should recognize why we celebrate the holiday. Christmas is about the birth of Christ, how our Father gave a precious gift to his sons and daughters, and the celebration of that day. Saint Nicholas, also known of Santa Claus, started the tradition of gift giving in the spirit of this sacred holiday.

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I recommend everyone reexamine what the birth of Jesus truly means. I am certain the answers you find will be worth far more to you than anything wrapped in fancy paper. This Christmas, take note when the true meaning of the holiday is ignored. As we gather with our family and friends, encourage everyone to read the Christmas Story of Mary and Joseph. In addition, always take note when folks use phrases like “X-Mas,” “Holiday Tree,” or “Winter Break,” which take away from its true meaning.

Carefully hiding our traditions as Christians and Americans is not merely a harmless omission of the truth. By removing Christmas from our public observances, we are whitewashing an important piece of our heritage. This December 25th is Christmas. Let’s just call it what it is.

If you have questions or comments about this or any other issue, please call toll free (866) 768-3987 or by email at bstouffer@senate.mo.gov.

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