



MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

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A Weekly Column for the
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The Reason for the Season

JEFFERSON CITY – No other season better captures the goodness and joy of the human heart than Christmas. This joy is expressed through gifts for others and can come in traditional as well as unusual ways. This model is the one given to us through the example of the wise men bringing their best to celebrate the birth of Jesus some 2000 years ago – the real reason for the season.

My Mom and Dad, Robert and Dorothy Shoemyer, taught me that the message of the very first Christmas was one of peace and goodwill towards mankind.

“And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid. I bring you news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.’ Suddenly, a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, ‘Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom His favor rests.’” –Luke 2:8-14

This is the spirit of the season and the reason we celebrate by giving our best to others.

This also marks the end of my first year as your state senator. You know, I’ve put close to 20,500 miles on my ‘04 Taurus in the past year traveling to various meetings, visiting senior centers and schools, and stopping by most if not all of the communities in the 18th Senatorial District to talk to folks about whatever’s on their minds. I think talking to folks

about everything and anything helps me to become a better senator by helping me gain a better understanding of the issues and concerns that impact people's lives.

I'm grateful to my staff for helping me get through the daily grind of the legislative session, but I treasure the opportunity to talk to folks in northeast Missouri who have entrusted me to represent them in our state Capitol.

I've also been a bit surprised by how many folks have stopped by our office in the Capitol during the past year. Some folks just stop by to say hello, some come by to offer advice, and some come by to give me a piece of their mind. No matter the reason, all are welcome and encouraged to stop by Room 434 in the Capitol whenever they're in Jefferson City.

I hope I've been able to help some folks during the past year, and I will continue to do my best to represent you in the Missouri Senate in 2008.

Finally, I'd like to thank my wife Cheryl and our children Wendy, Amy, Laura and Andrew for putting up with my being gone so much of the time in my capacity as a state senator. My family is my rock, and I couldn't do this without their love and support.

Happy Holidays to all!

If you have any questions or comments about this or any other issue, give my Capitol office a call at (573) 751-7852, send me an email at wes.shoemyer@senate.mo.gov, or drop a line to Room 434, State Capitol, 201 West Capitol Ave., Jefferson City, MO 65101.