



Christmas: the Time to Give of Ourselves

JEFFERSON CITY — It has been a challenging economic year for our country — and our state — and this Christmas is going to be difficult for many in our nation. With job cuts and a struggling economy, many families are thinking of ways to trim holiday spending while some are wondering if they can give anything at all.

It's often during times like these when we see the true spirit and meaning of Christmas shine even brighter. In Missouri, we are seeing thousands of residents donating to food banks and coming to the aid of those experiencing hard times. Many communities are “adopting” more families who need a little extra help this holiday season, and many are digging deep to find ways of helping neighbors and friends in need. To me, these generous folks are demonstrating one of the true reasons for the Christmas season: goodwill toward men.

While this holiday season may not be as abundant for many this year, there are many reasons to celebrate and give thanks. The Bible tells us, that through God's gifts to us, we can experience peace and joy in all circumstances (Philippians 4), and I hope this rings true for everyone this holiday season.

As I reflect on what is important this holiday season, I am grateful for my family and friends, and for the citizens of my District, which I am proud to serve. As we look forward to the New Year, I am also very hopeful and confident that this economic downturn will soon begin to turn around, and that as a nation and state we will hold up to any challenges we may face — with the remarkable spirit and resolve that we always have.

Merry Christmas, and best wishes for a Happy New Year.

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 phone at (866) 271-2844.

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