



MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

Wes Shoemyer
18th Senate District

CAPITOL BUILDING, ROOM 434
JEFFERSON CITY, MO 65101

**A Weekly Column for the
Week of December 14, 2009**

**Capitol Office
(573) 751-7852**

Happy Holidays

JEFFERSON CITY – Andy Williams, the famous singer who has a theater in Branson, is often heard singing “It’s the Most Wonderful Time of the Year” on the radio during December. The song is a celebration of Christmas and of gathering with family and friends to share the holiday season. I know for our family, it truly is the most wonderful time of the year, and I hope it is a season of good tidings and joy for your family too.

Each family has developed its own holiday traditions over the years, and I look forward to our “Compton’s Christmas” each year. One of my uncles collects some money from each of the adults and heads out to Compton’s Public Auction west of Macon, where he buys a lot of “mementos” that others have graciously parted with and brings them home. The goodies are then arranged on long tables and we let each of the kids go through and pick something that appeals to them. You never know what my uncle will bring back, and watching the kids trying to figure out what all of these old things are brings a big smile to everyone’s face.

Of course, giving gifts is just a small part of the holiday celebration. Spending time with our family and friends is probably the greatest gift we can give each other during this special season. My parents, Robert and Dorothy Shoemyer, long ago taught me the message of the very first Christmas is one of peace and goodwill towards mankind. As that famous “philosopher” Linus Van Pelt once told his good friend:

"And there were in the same country shepherds, abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them! And they were sore afraid ... And the angel said unto them, "Fear not! For, behold, I bring you tidings of great joy, which shall be to all my people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ, the Lord."

"And this shall be a sign unto you: Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger." And suddenly, there was with the angel a multitude of the Heavenly Host praising God, and saying, "Glory to God in the Highest, and on Earth peace, and good will toward men."

"That's what Christmas is all about, Charlie Brown."

I want to thank my staff, Ian Dunlap and Stacy Steen, for all of their hard work throughout the year. When you call my Capitol office or stop by for a visit, Ian and Stacy will be the first to greet you and answer any questions you might have.

I also want to encourage you to stop by our Capitol office during the legislative session. Some people 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 2010.

Finally, I'd like to thank my wife Cheryl and my family for keeping the home fires burning while I'm away serving the citizens of northeast Missouri as a state senator. I simply couldn't do this without their love and support.

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.