

Week of December 21, 2009



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Celebrating the Christmas Season

I really enjoy this time of year. The hustle and bustle of December, as people make preparations for Christmas and the new year, eventually gives way to a calm serenity as we come together with our loved ones to celebrate the true meaning of the Christmas season. While I enjoy the brightly colored lights, beautifully decorated houses, plentiful holiday food and all of the other traditions that accompany Christmas, I treasure the time I have with the people I care about the most, when we can focus on the real reason for the holiday and the blessings we have received this year.

You are probably familiar with Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*, the story of Ebenezer Scrooge and his complete transformation from a greedy and hardhearted businessman to a compassionate, joyful person who gave generously to those less fortunate than him. *A Christmas Carol* is a story that reminds us that it is never too late to change our ways, and that true joy comes from having peace and love in our hearts.

This timeless story also teaches us the importance of being generous, whether through donating food or other basic necessities to someone in need, giving your time and energy to a worthy cause, or surprising loved ones with gifts, just because it gives you joy to see their happiness. The Christmas season is a perfect time to give, and I encourage you to embrace the spirit of generosity and give what you can to those in need. The smallest act of kindness can make all the difference and truly brighten the holidays for someone less fortunate than you.

In the midst of what should be a most joyous time, I realize that this has been a difficult year for many Missourians. Our nation's economic struggles have had a very real effect on the hard-working people of this state. Still, even in the face of uncertain and for some—devastating—times, the people of this county possess an optimism that will

outshine any darkness. A great American leader, President Ronald Reagan, said it best during his 1982 Christmas radio address to the nation:

“In spite of everything, we Americans are still uniquely blessed, not only with the rich bounty of our land, but by a bounty of the spirit—a kind of year-round Christmas spirit that still makes our country a beacon of hope in a troubled world and that makes this Christmas and every Christmas even more special for all of us who number among our gifts the birthright of being an American.”

Christmas is also a time to reflect on our blessings and show our gratitude for what we have received this year. I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to represent you in the Missouri Senate. It is an honor and a privilege, and I am grateful to you for giving me this opportunity. I trust that your Christmas will be filled with warmth and meaning as you gather with your loved ones and reflect on the true meaning of this blessed holiday.

As always, please feel free to contact me or my staff with any questions or concerns at any time. We look forward to hearing your comments and suggestions and trying to answer any questions you may have. You can reach us by phone at 866-277-0882 (toll-free) or 573-751-2272, or by fax at 573-526-7381.

Senator David Pearce serves Bates, Cass, Johnson and Vernon counties in the 31st State Senatorial District.

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