



MISSOURI SENATE

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**A Column for the Week
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Good Tidings of Great Joy

JEFFERSON CITY — “Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.” Those are the words of the angels as they spoke the good news of Jesus’ birth to shepherds as they tended their flocks more than 2,000 years ago. This week, I’d like to take some time with this column to focus on the real reason for the season.

This time of year, it’s easy to get caught up in the rushing around to the shops and malls, holiday parties at our offices and homes, and the commercial end of Christmas. Don’t get me wrong, I like giving and getting the brightly-colored packages and seeing loved ones at holiday celebrations as much as anyone. But I want all of us to remember those who are less fortunate or cannot be with their family and friends during this joyous time of year.

Remember the bell ringers who stand by the door as you rush in and out of the stores to complete your shopping. Drop an extra dollar in their kettles and wish them a Merry Christmas. Remember those who not as fortunate as you might be. Find a child’s name on a tree at your work or at the store and pick out a present that will bring a smile to their faces and a little extra joy in their step as it might be the only gift they see this year. Remember our brethren who might be a little down on their luck this year and have to find a home at a shelter. Donate your money and your time to help them have a hot holiday meal and a warm place to stay while they put their lives back together. Remember our soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines who stand guard at some lonely outpost far from their families and loved ones, just so you have the freedom to celebrate Christmas with yours. Keep them in your prayers that they will soon be able to return home, safe and sound.

Finally, as we rush around this holiday season, let us not forget to take a few moments to remember that message of hope given to those few on a wind-swept desert night of “peace on

earth, goodwill toward men.” If we hold the true meaning of Christmas in our hearts all year long, we will find it easy to help spread those good tidings of great joy.

Merry Christmas!

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Senator Robert Mayer represents the people of Wayne, Ripley, Butler, Stoddard, New Madrid, Pemiscot and Dunklin counties in the Missouri Senate.