



CHRISTMAS

2015

Dearest Family and Friends,

Merry Christmas to All! Following is our Christmas update. Steve took the family to New York last Christmas. We were joined by Winnie and Bert. Too much detail for what we did but a short list is: Carriage rides in Central Park; Rockettes at Radio City Music Hall, followed by a backstage tour to meet Carol the Camel, take a bow on stage; Dinner at Sardis; NY bagels; Tiffany's; St. Patrick's; and Cinderella. The girls were thrilled looking at the wonder of the animated display windows, surrounded by chilly weather as it should be at Christmas time in New York City.

Returning to SC, we were elated to attend the Inauguration of our Governor, Nikki Haley. Steve is still: on the City Council as the mayor pro-tem; volunteering for Saratoga War Horse, helping both young and old vets; and working on his golf handicap as well as flying his Cessna. This Thanksgiving Steve took 10-year old Will (Veatch) Chatlos for his first right seat flight. We also had an Italian Stradivarius master, Matteo Fideli, entertain our music community. And now Zee is planning and organizing a Stradivarius concert at the Governor's Mansion with Matteo and Andrea Carcano, a renowned concert pianist in his own right. As you might surmise, Zee was appointed by Governor Haley to the Governor's Mansion Commission. Also, the annual Joye in Aiken music festival was a resounding success, the tradition will be continued indefinitely.

In April, we again went to the Master's Golf tournament with guests, Bob and Diana Jameson and Matt Michaletz. We were blessed with four glorious days of weather, golf and enjoyed a new star who is now number one in the world, Jordan Spieth.

Our next venture away from South Carolina was to Albuquerque to celebrate the two Granddaughters' birthdays. We ate at the Chef's Table at Bucca di Beppo celebrating everyone's birthday. As always Zeda's and Elizabeth's birthday parties were filled with friends and energy.

Zee and I decided to kidnap Zeda and Elizabeth; little did we know the parents would have paid us ransom to take them. We had the most fantastic automobile cross-country trip from Albuquerque to Chevy Chase. The day after ASE school was out we started our trek. Briefly: tornados in Oklahoma and Nebraska; a box between Zeda and Elizabeth filled with crafts kept their computers, DVD players and iPods in their cases; the introduction of Create the creature; Zeda and Elizabeth loved the overpriced steaks in Omaha; we visited the USAF Museum in Ohio where we saw two airplanes Steve actually flew and a Junkers-88 like the one Steve's father flew in WWII. We went through at least 15 states, some even intentionally. We saw NM, OK, TX, KS, NE, IO, WI, IL, IN, MO, OH, WV, PA, MD, and VA. The girls kept up with our progress on an Atlas and learned a song about each State led by Granddaddy. We have enough memories to last a lifetime.

Our granddaughters met their Wisconsin Cousins, most of them for the first time. It was such fun to watch the instant bonding. Blood is thicker than water. They look forward to again meeting their Cousins at our house next summer.

Our trip ended at Sweet Briar College where the old grads raised enough pledges to keep SBC afloat almost indefinitely. Liz and her cohorts did a great job of saving the historic and beautiful school. Maybe the girls will have a chance to join their Mom as SBC grads.

We are so blessed to have such family and friends. We had a night of reminiscing with Liz's godparents, Chotsy and Pete Mercer, in their beautiful mountain home in North Carolina. Steve and Pete relived a few of their more memorable flights together.

The Tituses joined us in Hilton Head for the girls to enjoy the ocean. Back in Aiken in addition to horses: Zee had arranged with Mandy to give Zeda and Elizabeth introductory piano lessons and for Liz to find middle C; a week of art camps; Dr. Field gave Zeda an hour-long voice lesson filled with fun and singing; and Philly arranged for Zeda and Rosey to have a couple of days of acting lessons. Think it inspired Zeda to think "actress." Our dear friend Sissy Brodie hosted a beautiful (perfect) Tea Party honoring Zeda and Elizabeth. They loved it so much, Elizabeth invited Sissy to come to Albuquerque for a Tea Party.

Going to weddings is always fun, and at this one we have known the bride since she was about seven months old. The wedding did not disappoint. Beautiful Austin live oaks in a pastoral setting, Amanda and Chris are an attractive, talented couple, starting an exciting life together.

On a more somber note, we lost two dear friends from our DC days and a brother-in-law. Toni McCambridge and John Autry were part of our DC social circle and we have the fondest memories of them all. They will be sorely missed.

Lloyd Kovacs married my sister Eve in 1961 and has been a stalwart in our family for over 54 years. I cannot for one moment think of an instance where Lloyd was not ready to help, offer advice, or strengthen the family ties. He was a man of many talents – a comment often made but seldom earned. Lloyd truly earned that accolade – an engineering executive with a national firm, the owner of over 45 patents, and a skilled painter and carpenter. Most of all he was the best father and husband to his family. What a fantastic life he led. We were fortunate that our family had a reunion around the PGA in August at Whistling Straits – thanks to Lloyd.

We are looking forward to the Christmas holidays in Albuquerque this year. Any time we spend with our granddaughters and family is treasured. We will brave the West Texas blizzards again. But we will begin our trek, well armed for survival, with one of Kay Moody's special rum cakes!

Zee and I wish you the Merriest and Holiest Christmas. And after that, the most prosperous and healthiest New Year. (And a Republican President.)

Merry Christmas,

Zee and Steve Homoki

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Thomas
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Merry
CHRISTMAS

Debbie & Michael,

Hope your Christmas is filled
with the joys of home and family,
warmed by the blessings of friendship,
and touched with the season's beauty.

Love,
Steve & Dee