





2020

A year of challenges of such magnitude that has had us all questioning,

"What horrible thing can happen next and when will it be over!"

2020 has also been a time of reflection and discovering what is really important. You, our friends and family come to the very top of the list. For us, the holidays are the time to stop, remember and honor those who are no longer with us and cherish those who are. It is time to remember the incredible things we've been privileged to do, even in this year of turmoil, and to remember the people we've been so lucky to have done them with.

2020 certainly looked different than we had planned. I know you would agree. I lost my dream job in February, one that I had planned on retiring from. Every job that I was offered after that went away because of COVID. Our two+ week trip to the east coast with the Viper Club was canceled, Nicholls Family Reunion canceled, and almost everything else we had planned to do was canceled. We also had to put pencil to paper and figure out how we were going to make it through this.

But as our world was being turned upside down, we tried to make the most of it. We built a new gazebo, I stained the gazebo, pergola, decks and everything that needed it. Almost every closet, drawer and bookshelf was cleaned out, organized, and donation trips scheduled. Its crazy how it all needs to be done again! We spent lots of time with small groups of family and friends; masks, social distancing & hand washing included.

We thoroughly enjoyed several four to five-day road trips, including two trips to Arizona, one in February and one the first weekend of November, to spend time with friends. They've opened their home to us and we consider it our home away from home. Joyful laughter is heard when we get together, we experience some spectacular scenery and have fun doing lots of different things when we are there or when they visit us.

We went on 3 road trips with the Viper Club. 1: Over the 4th of July, a few of us spent 5 days in Ouray, CO. We ate, drove the Vipers over the Million Dollar Highway to Durango and to the Museum of the Mountain West in Montrose, ate some more, rented jeeps and went off-roading on the "Switzerland of America peaks, hiked and relaxed together at the hotel. 2: Then several of us took the SUVs and ATVs to Campbell Creek Ranch near Meeker, CO for a long Labor Day Weekend. One of our Viper families owns 400 acres of incredible scenery with unique lodging, gazebos, outdoor seating areas, totem poles, water features, lakes and trails. We had a blast! 3: Two weeks later we road tripped to Omaha, NE. While there, we went to the Henry Dorley Zoo and Aquarium. Have you ever heard of it? We hadn't, but according to Google and Trip Advisor, it is the BEST zoo with the most animals in, not just the U.S., but the entire world! It was amazing! We also went to the Strategic Air Command and Aerospace Museum which houses the SR-71 "Blackbird" and the Boeing B-29 Superfortress among many more. This multi-million-dollar museum stands as a tribute to Strategic Air Command and the hundreds of thousands of men and women who proudly served.

Family road trips were awesome! Jim and I drove to Des Moines, IA for his Aunt Thelma's Celebration of Life, where we joined Jim's two brothers, sister and cousins. It was wonderful to spend time with and celebrate with everyone. We drove to Lubbock, TX for Braleigh's 5th birthday since she had made us promise

that we would be there for her party. Son Braden was transferred from Minnesota to Texas in March and Braden, Ashleigh, Braleigh & Charleigh have a beautiful new home in Lubbock, just 8 hours from us.

Family reunions are the best! Our Nicholls Family Reunion (my dad's family) was to be in Buena Vista, CO in July. Braden had arranged for our family (9 of us) to stay at a VRBO near Rancho Antero, my cousin's ranch, where the reunion was to be held. Maureen and Kristy were perfect hosts even though there were just 12 of us at the reunion. Normally, we could have 50-100 family members attend. While in the Buena Vista area, we drove the very scenic Cottonwood Pass and Tincup Pass on the way to St. Elmo. Our Holiday card photos were taken at Mirror Lake between Tincup and St. Elmo. We also made stops at Mt. Princeton Hot Springs and other scenic areas. The very best part of this long weekend was spending time with our three beautiful grandchildren, Braleigh, Jaxon and Charleigh. Our daughter, Shaunelle, Derek and Jaxon live close so we don't have to go on a road-trip to see them and love every minute that we spend with them.

We are so very lucky! We have lived in our house for 17 years now and have never felt so lucky to live in such a beautiful place, away from the chaos that 2020 has brought to all of us. Many of you have come to visit for an hour or a day or a few days and we thank-you for joining us. My exercise regimen was totally derailed and many walks in the woods have brought renewed hope and energy. Jim gets out there too but on the ATV. We have spent many "happy hours" with our neighbors on the patio and around the firepit, helping to put this year into perspective. Playing with our grandkids has taken the place of going to football games, watching Netflix at home has taken the place of Friday night date nights at the movies and virtual meetings and facetime have taken the place of getting to see our friends, family and colleagues in person.

Jim: Still working for Movement Mortgage, our dining room table has become Jim's office. He works with people of every age, including Seniors, helping them to make the best life decisions with Reverse or other Mortgages, whatever works best for them. Call or email him if interested in purchasing or refinancing or if you simply have questions – 303-883-5336 or email him at jim.johnson@movement.com.

Shirley: My office is upstairs, one floor away from Jim's office. I have been able to work a few short-term jobs from home. But, getting things done that have been waiting for me to have the time, reaching out to family and friends that are important to us and living life to the fullest have become priority. I may not have your phone #. Please give us a call at 303-697-9196 or text me at 303-956-1122. We'd love to catch up.

Braden, Ashleigh, Braleigh & Charleigh: Ashleigh loves staying home with the girls while Braden works for Fiat Chrysler Automobiles as Mopar Service & Parts Area Manager over several dealerships. They say they will not miss another Minne**snow**ta winter. Exciting News! They are expecting and due early April of 2021.

Shaunelle, Derek & Jaxon: Both post-closing mortgage auditors, Shaunelle and Derek are blessed to work from home. They love spending weekends at our small mountain cabin just 15 minutes from our house. We spend lots of time with them. Jaxon, 20 months, is a hiker, climber of rocks and rider of ATVs while here.

If you have experienced hard times, or lost your home or a loved one, our hearts go out to you.

Please let us know if there is anything we can do to help, now or at any time.

2021, a New Year??? Yes, please! Here's to better times ahead for us all! We are wishing you a wonderful Holiday Season and a safe and healthy 2021!

Jim & Shirley Johnson

Braden, Ashleigh, Braleigh, Charleigh & one on the way / Shaunelle, Derek & Jaxon