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Christmas isn't just a day but a season, a time of joy and togetherness, a reminder of everything that's good in life, children & laughter, family & friendship, and people like you that make it so good.

2021

Another year of challenges & change, heartbreak & turmoil.

But the last couple of years have also been a time of reflection and discovering what is really important. Our beautiful grandchildren have been the brightness in our lives through it all, bringing us such joy! You, our friends and family have played such an important part in our lives, too. 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 these years of turmoil, and to remember the people we've been so lucky to have done them with.

As our world has been turned upside down, we've tried to make the most of it. Reading your 2020 letters, we know that you have too! We had a new storage shed built, had the new shed and other outbuildings painted and house trim painted, we landscaped, sold three cars and cleaned out the garage. We also worked many hours on wildfire mitigation, cutting trees for friends to pick up for firewood and chipping the limbs and slash. We've enjoyed getting back to Colorado University's Folsom Field and the nostalgia of college football this year. We hosted the Jeffco Sertoma Club and other friends and relatives at holidays and "just because."

We thoroughly enjoyed several four to five-day trips. 1: I drove to Lubbock, TX on March 28th and arrived just hours before Adaleigh Marie, our 4th grandchild, was born to Braden & Ashleigh. Her sisters, 6 year-old Braleigh and 2 year-old Charleigh, had so much fun making welcome home banners and other gifts to welcome Adaleigh to Braden's family of girls, which includes Letti, the dog. 2: Then Jim and I drove to Lubbock in July to be with all three girls while Braden & Ashleigh attended business functions. 3: August found us in Deadwood, SD and surrounding area with friends of mine who call themselves "The Deadwood Riders" from Ensign where I worked several years ago. We drove the Viper while the rest rode motorcycles through the spectacular scenery that SD has to offer. 4: We flew to Las Vegas in October to enjoy our three granddaughters once again, while mom and dad attended more business functions. Once we said good-bye, we spent one extra day checking out "The Strip" and then exploring the very impressive "Valley of Fire" State Park, 5: November was the perfect time to visit friends in Arizona as the weather was in the low 80s and the scenic drives we went on were breathtakingly beautiful.

We went on 3 road trips and many other day events with the CO/MT/UT/WY Viper Club. Being the Event Coordinator for our Club has been so much work, but so incredibly worth the time and effort spent. What could be better than planning trips and activities to check off items on MY bucket list and taking anywhere from 20 - 60 of my favorite people with me. 1: Four cities that I always wanted to visit became reality on our extraordinary road trip to the National Viper Event in Miami & The Keys in April into May this year. Chattanooga, TN, Savannah, GA, Charleston, SC & St. Augustine, FL offered even more than I ever

dreamed or expected. On our way back home from this 2 ½ week and almost 6,000-mile road trip, we made stops in Georgia to see Jim's brother Tim and wife Caroyl, in Tennessee to see his brother Tom and wife, Amy, and on to Texas to visit son Braden and family. 2: Over the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, about 30 of us spent 5 days in Ouray, CO. We ate, drove the Vipers over the Million Dollar Highway to Silverton, ate some more, rented jeeps and went off-roading on the "Switzerland of America" peaks, explored ghost towns, hiked and relaxed together at the hotel. 3: Then several of us took the SUVs and ATVs to Campbell Creek Ranch near Meeker, CO for a long relaxing Labor Day Weekend filled with hiking, off roading, board games, food and laughter. Day events included everything from barbecues at members' homes to castle tours, a train museum, scenic drives, a chuckwagon dinner, Halloween Party, 2 upcoming Christmas Parties and toy run to Children's Hospital. Jim is still President of the Club and along with our Steering Committee, we are planning the National Viper Event #5 to be held in Colorado Springs, September of 2023.

Jim: Still working for Movement Mortgage, Jim offices mostly from home. He enjoys talking to people of every age, including Seniors, helping them 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. Our grandkids bring a twinkle to Jim's eye whenever he is with him. His favorite thing ever is to take grandkids, one at a time, on the ATV or on a hike in the woods to discover the animals, rocks, trees and wildflowers. I enjoy that too because I am always the recipient of the rocks, sticks, flowers and smiles on their return, smiles that light up our world.

Shirley: Jim and I went to my 50<sup>th</sup> Englewood High School Class Reunion this summer — how can that even be possible??? I've really enjoyed re-connecting with so many of my classmates. I'm still President of Conifer Area Council, facilitating quarterly Town Hall Meetings and working on many community projects. It is truly amazing what a few very dedicated volunteers can accomplish. I work part time, mostly from my home office and go to as many exercise classes and work outside as much as possible. 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 & Adaleigh: We've been to their beautiful home in Lubbock, TX three times this year, just 8-hours away. Our Holiday Card photo was taken on May 7th, Braleigh's 6th birthday, on our way back from Miami. The girls love playing at the area parks and easily make friends every time they go. Braden is After Sales Area Manager of the Mopar Brand of Stellantis working with 16 Chrysler, Jeep, Dodge Ram Dealerships in West Texas, while Ashleigh stays at home with the girls and homeschools Braleigh.

Shaunelle, Derek & Jaxon: They have moved to the mountains full time now, are just 15 minutes from us and we see them often – yay! Our Holiday Card photo, with Jaxon, was taken on November 7th in our backyard. Shaunelle has 3 main passions - Jaxon, dance & art and she has taken dance and art classes this year. She just changed jobs and is now Underwriting Administrative Assistant for NFM Lending and Derek is CHFA auditor for Metasource. They both work from home and are there for Jaxon, now 2 ½, almost 3.

May the simple joys of Christmas warm your heart, fill your home, and last a lifetime!

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Braden, Ashleigh, Braleigh, Charleigh & Adaleigh / Shaunelle, Derek & Jaxon

"It came without ribbons. It came without tags. It came without packages, boxes or bags. Maybe Christmas doesn't come from a store. Maybe Christmas means a little bit more."

-Dr. Seuss