



M E R R Y   C H R I S T M A S

2024

Wishing you and  
your loved ones  
the greatest of joy  
this Christmas

Bland  
& Billee

Bland & Billee Burchett  
2031 S. American Street  
Ridgecrest, CA 93555

Bland & Billee  
Christmas 2024

Our last Christmas message was 2022 and we are still trying to figure out what happened to 2023 as we play catchup with our 2024 Christmas message. However, we can say that 2023 went by fast due to our good health, lots of business travel (achieved United million miler & 1K status), time at the cabin and our loving family.

This year marked my final count down to retirement which was on 3 December 2024. After 41 years, 10 months working to ensure our military's readiness, it's now time for us to start enjoying a new chapter in life. This new chapter will start with 1000+ chores that I'll be working on deferred home maintenance as we prepare to move to our Wyoming home in 2026. Until then, we'll make several trips hauling stuff that neither I nor Billee can let go, so we'll store our precious stuff in a 40' container "Time Capsule" van at the cabin for our kid's surprise when that time comes 😊

We started this year's journey in Nov 2023 with business travel to Quebec City, Canada and what an incredible opportunity to discover the history of such a beautiful city we'll visit again! More business travel throughout the year back to Washington D.C. and our NAVAIR HQ in Lexington Park, Md. Our final international travel to Portsmouth, UK in August was another first for both of us and again the history was just phenomenal, especially the maritime technological evolution witnessed firsthand at the Portsmouth, UK Maritime Museum. We concluded our time in the UK, holding our business group's dinner at the restaurant /pub where Churchill and Eisenhower met often to discuss/plan operation "Overlord"; excellent food and very humbling to realize the success of WW-II was planned in this establishment.

Billee and I had a tour of the Pentagon in the summer and spent time at the 9/11 memorial with a close friend who witness this horrific event. This was my farewell tour given my pending retirement. The next big "Time Related" event was my college football team's 45 year reunion at Southern Utah University. Wow, now that was an incredible experience meeting past teammates and mingling among the home coming crowd at the SUU stadium.

The grandkids were very active in sports with our oldest grandson, Christopher "CD" Margarella's HS baseball team winning the Az State 4A conference championship. He made the AZ All-State conference 4A 1<sup>st</sup> team OF/Pitcher and signed to play Junior College Baseball at Oxnard CC, Ca. This capped off this senior year and he graduated in May. From this point, we celebrated his graduation with our entire small family's vacation to St. Thomas, USVI where driving on the left side of the road in a USA-configured left-side steering wheel vehicle was a little nerve racking 😊. We survived and there's nothing like spending 2 weeks in paradise, snorkeling, sailing, jet skiing, and lounging around.

Benjamin is playing both baseball and football where he's excelling at both. He's becoming an excellent pitcher and first basemen. His football season ended with beating a very strong

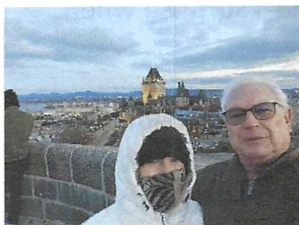


Bakersfield team in the final moments to win the league championship. Benny is turning into an excellent center and special team's center with his long snaps fast and accurate (like his father's and mine 😊).

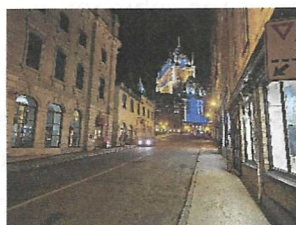
Samual is our youngest and is our tween with his 11<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration on 5 December. He's very active in building Lego's, playing his video games and learning new experiences like riding roller coasters and a jet ski with his father. Sammy is his big brother's best supporter and has voiced an interest in becoming a football coach alongside this dad. He's also involved in his school's drama club and was selected to play a part in the HS drama club's upcoming play "Annie".

May you have a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

### Bland & Billee



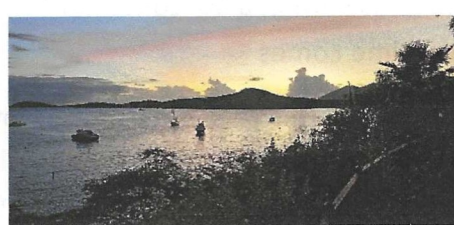
Quebec City



Quebec City



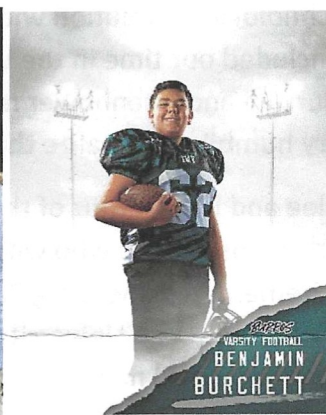
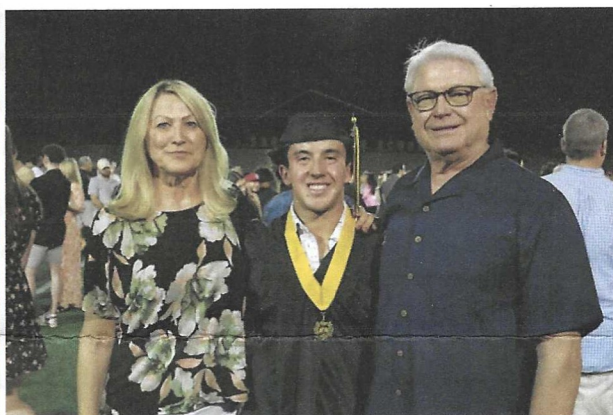
St Thomas



St Thomas USVI



Christopher "CD" Margarella championship trophy & Graduation



Benny wearing my #



Sammys first jet ski expérience



Sailing USVI



Portsmouth, UK.