

December 2015 – Mayor's Message

History is one of my favorite subjects to study. In our weekly Department Head Meetings, I like to start with some little fact of history I've recently read about. I think we all learn lessons from history.

With the holiday season quickly approaching us, I wanted to look at some of the past Christmas messages shared by our U.S. presidents. I find their messages just as appropriate today as they were many years ago. The problems people struggled with then repeat themselves over and over.

In President Franklin D. Roosevelt's address on December 24, 1944, he said: "Here, at home, we will celebrate this Christmas Day in our traditional American way- because of its deep spiritual meaning to us; because the teachings of Christ are fundamental in our lives; and because we want our youngest generation to grow up knowing the significance of this tradition and the story of the coming of the immortal Prince of Peace and Good Will. But, in perhaps every home in the United States, sad and anxious thoughts will be continually with the millions of our loved ones who are suffering hardships and misery, and who are risking their very lives to preserve for us and for all mankind the fruits of His teachings and the foundations of civilization itself."

From President John F. Kennedy's Christmas message in 1962 - "It is the day when we remind ourselves that man can and must live in peace with his neighbors and that it is the peacemakers who are truly blessed. In this year of 1962 we greet each other at Christmas with some special sense of the blessings of peace. This has been a year of peril when the peace has been sorely threatened. But it has been a year when peril was faced and when reason ruled. As a result, we may talk, at this Christmas, just a little bit more confidently of peace on earth, good will to men. As a result, the hopes of the American people are perhaps a little higher. We have much yet to do. We still need to ask that God bless everyone."

President Gerald R. Ford shared this in his December 24, 1975 Christmas Message: "The spirit of Christmas is ageless, irresistible and knows no barriers. It reaches out to add a glow to the humblest of homes and the stateliest of mansions. It catches up saint and sinner alike in its warm embrace. It is the season to be jolly — but to be silent and prayerful as well."

The 1981 Christmas Message of Ronald Reagan had this statement: "On Christmas, we celebrate the birth of Christ with prayer, feasting, and great merriment. But, most of all, we experience it in our hearts. For, more than just a day, Christmas is a state of mind. It is found throughout the year whenever faith overcomes doubt, hope conquers despair, and love triumphs over hate. It is present when men of any creed bring love and understanding to the hearts of their fellow man. The feeling is seen in the wondrous faces of children and in the hopeful eyes of the aged. It overflows the hearts of cheerful givers and the souls."

As mayor of Murray City, I wish you and yours a wonderful holiday season. I hope you will take time to reflect on those things you cherish the most, the things that bring you the most joy and share those thoughts of love and appreciation with the ones that matter to you most - for you too are making your mark in history with the actions you take towards others. I hope you have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Sincerely,



Ted Eyre, Mayor