

## Dear Family and Friends,

Merry Christmas, folks. Nancy and I are looking forward to Christmas 2013 at home after a year of both good and bad news. It began on April 3<sup>rd</sup> with the passing of Nancy's Aunt Jo. She was 92 years old. We always remember Aunt Jo because no matter when we visited, she always served her famous gob cake. Nancy, needless to say, has many fond memories of her Aunt Jo dating back to Nancy's earliest childhood. She will be missed by all of us.





Then on August 20th, just a few weeks short of her 95th birthday, we lost Nan-

cy's Mom. Still mentally sharp, she spent her last 3+ years at Garvey Manor in Holidaysburg, PA, where she received outstanding support and care. I will always remember that she was an ardent fan of professional wrestling. I found that out when I picked up Nancy for our first date in 1967. She was an excellent Mom to Nancy and Elaine and an exceptional mother-in-law to me as well as a loving grandmother and great grandmother.

During better times we remodeled our kitchen and powder room. The 5-week project, which began in January, turned into 8 weeks, but the end product was well worth the wait. Not a week goes by that we don't point to another part of the kitchen that makes cooking meals more fun. Right after we finished we were visited by Nancy's sister Elaine and husband Karl from Michigan. They came not just to visit or see the kitchen but to get out of the snow.

In May we spent a week at a beach house in the Florida panhandle with Mark, Jenny, and the kids. Mark was happy to take time off from his orthodontic practice, and we were super happy to spend time with his family. Margaret (4)



joined her brothers John Michael (8) and Jackson (11) for this picture taken on the white, sandy beach.



In July our oldest grandchild Savannah visited us from Arizona. Savannah is a senior in high school, and we just learned that she will attend the University of Arizona beginning next Fall. She was awarded a very nice scholarship based on her excellent high school grades. Her brother Ian, a high school freshman, is registered in the engineering curriculum, but he managed his time well enough to also have a good year as an offensive guard on the freshman football team. Our daughter Melissa tells us that Ian received an award from his school for maintaining a 4.3 grade point average while playing football.

In September we returned with Karl and Elaine to Pigeon Forge, TN. Shopping, shows, good food, and great company. For what more could anyone ask? Well, except for the shopping. And at Thanksgiving the 4 of us dropped in on Aunt Nina in PA to enjoy that week with her. Naturally, it rained, turned to sleet, then ice, and finally snow. Why we like Alabama.

Nancy and I feel very blessed. We both stay busy with our activities, our friends, and our family. We regularly visit the gym, work and play on our computers, read lots of books, toil in the soil outside the house, and we enjoy classical concerts, stage performances, and dining out. For this holiday season we want to share our blessings with you and wish everyone a happy and healthy 2014.

Very Merry Christmas! Dick and Nancy

