

# Joe Ritchey Family Christmas Greeting 2014

We trust you have had an enjoyable Thanksgiving and are now looking forward to Christmas and the New Year.

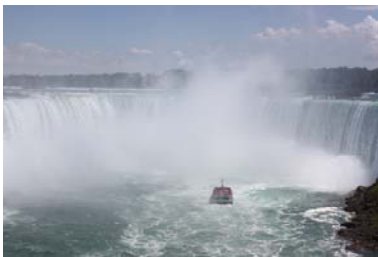
We have experienced great sorrow and great joy this past year. We are sad to say that Mary Ellen, our step mom passed away from a sudden stroke in February. Dad R. after struggling with health complications due to his diabetes died peacefully in June just one day short of his 89<sup>th</sup> birthday. We made as many visits as we could back to Ohio during this time. They are both greatly missed. Of course these things also bring families together for which we are also grateful. The tears were offset, in part, by the joy of the birth of our first granddaughter and the continued success of our grandson and our sons and daughters-in-law. Here is our year in review.

Darlene continues to work at Powderhorn, this year in the gift shop. Joe continues as manager of the Department of Energy Moab technical assistance contract for S&K Aerospace; still working for Pro2Serve.



At the end of January, we traveled to Houston, TX for an ASTM meeting. We enjoyed seeing the Orion spacecraft at the NASA's Johnson Space Center and made a visit to Galveston, TX

In May, we drove back to Ohio so Darlene would have a vehicle for the summer. We spent time with family in Cleveland and Ashtabula including visiting with our niece Cortney and nephews Josh and Evan along with James, Tim, Rachel, and Gavin.



Just a month later in June, Joe traveled back to Ohio for a trip to Toronto for ASTM meetings. Tim, Rachel, and Gavin traveled with us. On the way home we stayed at the Inn at Lock 7 on the Welland Canal and rode one of the boats at Niagara Falls.



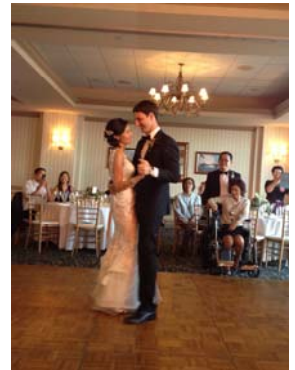
Over the 4<sup>th</sup> of July while Darlene was still in Ohio, Joe went jeeping with James in the La Sal Mountains near Moab.



In August we took a weekend trip to Marble and Crested Butte Colorado. Marble, named after the pure white marble that is quarried near by was the source

for the Lincoln Memorial in DC. August also brought a visit to our condo from a black bear.

In September we took James with us to California to attend the wedding of our nephew Ryan to Jenn. Although the visit was quick we were able to see Joe's cousin Alice and make stops at the Hoover Dam and Grand Canyon.



Our first granddaughter Shaelyn Grace was born on September 13 in Cincinnati. Darlene arrived first to help out and Joe came in early October.

In November we traveled back to Bahrain to visit John and Mandy. We spent a few days with them then took them with us to Abu Dhabi and Dubai spending Thanksgiving Day on a desert safari. Joe and John went snowboarding/skiing while Darlene and Mandy



shopped at the Mall of the Emirates. We took a ride up to the 124<sup>th</sup> floor observation deck of the Burj Khalifa (worlds tallest building).



We are appreciative of all the support you have given us during our tough times and we hope that somehow we have been a support to you also. We wish you the very best in the new year.