

To all our family and friends, we wish you a Joyous Christmas Holiday, and Health and Happiness for the New Year.

This is a short note to keep in touch and let you know we are well. 2005 was a very up and down year for us, bringing great sadness in the loss of loved family, friends, and pets. We were especially saddened by the sudden and unexpected passing of Chad's brother, Bruce; it has left a great void in all our lives. Very shortly after, Chad's elderly Aunt Evelyn also passed after a long and full life. Our dog Solomon, who has been with us 13 years, lost his battle with cancer; and Jet, our old retired Army horse, succumbed to the complications of old age.

But we have had good times as well, visiting friends and family, and in November we celebrated our 25<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary with good friends. But the "real" celebration is tentatively planned for next year with a trip to Southern Europe, following - <drum roll please> - Linda's departure from the State next August.

Linda will be leaving the Texas Attorney General's office, ending a long, successful, and - despite the stresses - rewarding career in Child Support Enforcement. But far from retiring, this will merely free Linda to pursue other interests. Chad also is getting close to retiring from his position with the County, though that likely will not occur for at least another year - sort of wait and see. He likes the position and the folks he works with but absolutely hates the commute; and he keeps looking at the growing "to do" list of things he wants to do around the ol' homestead.

2005 has reminded us just what treasures we have in you, our family and friends, and we hold you all dear. Wishing you all the best for 2006.

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