



A season of tradition and reflection

Our ancestors experienced December in a manner not much different than the way we do today. Crops had been gathered, and, often, bitter cold had set in. The slowly disappearing sun sank lower and lower in the sky until the winter solstice arrived on the 20th or 21st – the shortest day and longest night of the year. Celebrations took place after that as the sun began to rise higher in the sky and days lengthened. Many traditions associated with the year's end can be traced back to ancient times, when December was the 10th month on a Roman calendar that counted only 304 days.

Your seasonal observances may be quieter and more family-oriented than some of the boisterous celebrations of earlier times. This time of the year gives opportunities for all of us to put in perspective the values that guide our lives. Many of you, We know, take time – if only a day or two – to set aside other concerns and reflect on the big and small triumphs of our lives, learn from disappointments, and ponder new beginnings.

Whether your personal holiday celebrations involve communing with family and friends or taking to the easy chair to watch the events on the holiday sports calendar – or both – We hope this year's holiday season provides you with lasting enjoyment.

We in this office wish you enduring happiness. May the joys of the season stay with you as you celebrate the new year.

