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December 2014

“Merry Christmas”

Dear family and friends,

It is this time of the year again to reminisce on what happened in the year of 2014. It came and is now gone. It wouldn't be New England if we did not have snow. We were able to manage by looking forward to Spring and Summer.

I am thankful for my sons and their families. They call me and stop by to take me for a ride and out to eat. That helps when you live alone. There were two high school graduations this year. Malachi, Ken and Rose's second son, graduated on June 20, 2014 from Granby Memorial High School. A few days later, Jordan, Jeff and Linda's youngest son, graduated from North Branford High School on June 23, 2014. Malachi is attending Manchester Community College in Manchester, CT. Jordan is attending Gateway Community College in New Haven, CT. They like college and are doing very well. Ken Jr. is in his second year at the University of Connecticut (UCONN). My oldest grandson, Marcus is doing very well at ESPN in Bristol, CT.

Ken and Rose's oldest daughter, Kenya, is 12 and in the seventh grade. She's a high honors student who had 10 A's in the first marking period! Nairobi is 7 and the youngest daughter of Ken and Rose. She is my artist. She draws pictures of me, herself, and her father and mails them to me. She is doing well in school also. During the summer, she went to Boston and competed in the National competition. She won first place for age 6 and under as a solo tap dancer. She recently performed in her church Christmas play, "A King is Coming to Town".

I continue the senior citizen exercise classes each week. It keeps me moving around. The ladies are so kind and friendly. My annual vacation in July is attending the CM Eppes Alumni in Greenville, NC, my home town. Two of my sisters and brother-in-law attended also. Those who plan and prepare for the reunion do a wonderful job each year. In August, I travelled with my sister Peggy and her husband, Jimmie to Reisterstown, MD to attend our family reunion of the Lofton family on our father's side. We stayed five days with our cousin Shirlene Lofton Snowden. It was a great affair with relatives that we had not seen for a long time (also some new ones).

Each year, I attend some of Greg's performances such as "All's Well That Ends Well" by Capital Classics at the St. Joseph's University in West Hartford, CT. Also he performed at Long Wharf Theatre in New Haven in the play "Our Town". This was a celebration for Long Wharf's 50th year. He will also be performing in December in "Stratford Characters". My friends, Dr. Gerald and Mariam Putterman, make sure that I get to see Greg perform.

On Thanksgiving, Marvin and DeÉtta hosted Thanksgiving dinner at their home. There was a lot of good food and fellowship with family and friends. We had our first winter snow on Thanksgiving Day but we were able to travel.

We will celebrate Christmas Day at Jeff and Linda's home in North Branford. We're looking to share lots of good food, gifts and love for our families and friends.

We had a wonderful year in 2014 and looking forward to 2015 with good health.

Love,

Thelma L. Mouning