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December 2015

### “Season’s Greetings”

Dear family and friends,

It is the time of the year to count down into another new year. In the beginning of 2015, as always in New England, we had lots of snow and cold weather. We can’t wait until Spring and Summer so we can get outside and see the flowers, green grass, and work in the yard.

This year my vacation took me in a different route South. I traveled to sunny Hollywood, Florida. I flew down with my youngest son, Kenneth, to see his daughters, Kenya and Nairobi perform in the National American Dance Awards. The girls left a week earlier with their mother, Rose. Kenya and Nairobi did a very good job in their dance group. They brought home awards. When the girls perform in New England, I go see them perform there as well.

While we were in Florida, we visited Rose’s parents Mr. & Mrs. Scott in Port St. Lucie and other family members. We spent several days with them. Ken, Rose, and the girls went to the beach two days while I rested in the cool air conditioned home with the Scotts. We continued our travels to Sea World. Kenya and Nairobi enjoyed it very much. After we returned from Florida, Kenya participated in her first National American Miss pageant and was a Top 10 finalist for Southern New England! The girls are doing very well in school. Kenya is 13 years old, in the eighth grade. In her first marking period she received 11 A’s (six of them are A+). Nairobi is following her big sister with good grades too. She is 8 years old in the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. Malachi’s in his second year at Manchester Community College and also working part-time. Kenneth Jr. is enjoying life and his new job.

My third son, Jeffrey and Linda are very busy with work and taking Jordan, their youngest son, to Gateway Community College in New Haven. He also works part-time. Marcus, their oldest son, enjoys work and making plans for the future. He is engaged to Justyne Nuzzo and will be married in the Fall of 2016. Gregory, son number two, continues to work and act on the side. He’s doing a different thing in acting this year, but he loves it. Marvin and DeEtta stay busy with work but have time for family and friends during the weekend.

After vacation, I rested for a few days. It was time to do some maintenance around the house. I had the long driveway repaired, purchased a new boiler and an oil tank. I have several fruit trees: apples, pears, plums and a grapevine that produced a lot of fresh fruit this year. I shared the fruit with family and friends.

Now the leaves are off of the trees. It lets me know it is Fall and time to be thankful for another year with my family and friends at my home in North Branford, CT. We were very happy to have a friend from Stratford, CT. Her name is Thursday Savage. She was with us all day. Marcus’ fiancée Justyne also joined us. My sister Catherine (Scottie) from Washington DC celebrated her 70<sup>th</sup> birthday on Thanksgiving Day. We surprised her with a cake and singing Happy Birthday. It was an enjoyable day. Our next family gathering will be Christmas at Ken and Rose’s home in Granby, CT.

To all of my family and friends, have a Merry Christmas and may 2016 bring joy and happiness to all!

Love,

Thelma L. Mouning