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▶▶▶ MERRY CHRISTMAS by HB Turner, President



Wow, what an incredible group of team members and associates who make up Heatron. You are a member of incredibly generous and caring team of Heatron associates.

In the last newsletter, it was pointed out that we raised just shy of \$7,000 for the Heart Association. Just recently, I've been amazed at the prayers and financial support shown by our associates for fellow Heatron Erie associate Craig Sundberg and his family, as his 3 year old son Jack fights a difficult battle with brain cancer. In addition to cash donations, one of our associates, Robert Holt, came up with an idea to allow associates to donate their personal time off (PTO) so that Craig would have additional paid time off to be with his son during this difficult time. As a result, we quickly designed and implemented a policy to allow associates to donate time off and as a result, Craig received over six weeks of donated time off!

During the Christmas season (notice I didn't use the politically correct term "holidays", I'll write more about that later) our generous associates will once again donate considerable gifts to needy families in the Leavenworth community. Every year for many years Heatron and its associates adopt usually three families in need so that they can have a joyous Christmas season.

To me, that's what a company like Heatron is supposed to do as a major employer in the communities that it operates in. As a member of the local community it's important that we share our successes with the members of our communities. For those of you who have heard Ron Willis speak about "Life Principles", you know that no matter what we think, we are always being watched and judged by others. I'd much rather someone speak of our company as a compassionate or caring company, than one that will treat people differently than they would



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want to be treated.

This is a special time of the year. We all are thinking of Christmas and the start of a New Year, with the promises we hope the New Year will bring to each of us. It's a time to reflect on our blessings, what we been given, or what we can give to others. It's a time to spend time with family and enjoy the company of friends and family.

Earlier I mentioned my disdain for the term "happy holidays" rather than using the term "Merry Christmas" for those who want to be politically correct. Our country was founded on the basis of "God", it's what our foundation of governance was built on and what our constitution guarantees, "Freedom under God". I don't mean to preach, but if I lived in a country where other religions than Christianity were practiced, and I was a Christian, I'd expect to respect the basis of the religions of the country I resided. Frankly as an American who is proud of our heritage, I'm thinking it's time to tell our politicians and news media, we want Merry Christmas as a greeting. We want to treasure our heritage and our values and for those who want to tell us that's not right, it's time to push back.

Recently I was listening to the radio and the host was interviewing a Jewish Cantor (leader of the Jewish worship service). When the Cantor was asked how he felt when someone wishes him "Merry Christmas" rather than "Happy Hanukah", his response was that he appreciated the gesture because he knew it was a greeting that was genuine and meant the best for him, regardless of his religious beliefs. I think this the real America and not what we hear in the media or in some schools where God has been thrown out. In fact, my 8th grade daughter recently sang in a public school choir concert and I was thrilled to have been able to hear them sing traditional religious songs like Silent Night and others that were clearly religious based. That's the American Christmas spirit most of us long for, regardless of our religious affiliation. It's time to bring back our American Values!

Mike and I wish each of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Enjoy your time with friends and family and please give thanks for your freedoms to live in the greatest country in the world. God Bless!

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