

PARTY LINES Davis County Clipper
Christmas message:

December 20, 2005

Rather than debate the politics of Christmas, I wanted to share my thoughts about Christmas.

Few moments in our country have had history-changing events like the year 1968.

--The TET Offensive in Vietnam helped escalate the War.

--Two of America's most famous civil rights leaders, Martin Luther King, Jr. and Robert F. Kennedy, were assassinated.

--The violent demonstrations at the Democratic National Convention in Chicago.

--The Summer Olympics in Mexico City, two U.S. athletes delivered the Black Power Salute during the medal ceremony.

--Richard Nixon wins the presidential election.

--In December, Apollo 8 becomes the first manned vehicle to orbit the moon.

In 1968, on Christmas Eve, the Apollo 8 crew delivered a memorable Christmas message to the American people as they quoted scriptures from the book of Genesis in the Bible. For most, however, they captured one of history's most famous photographs.

Circling out of the moon's dark side, the astronauts were awestruck as they looked at the planet Earth from the Moon's horizon. Alone, in its incredible brilliance, against the vast, dark skies of space, they caught a glimpse of our beautiful world as they looked down from the heavens. In our eyes, as our world struggles with inhumanity, we see nations at war with each other, and we see deaths from poverty and disease. Yet, a picture of our world from the heavens shows that we live in a beautiful world so small and so minute in an infinite area of the universe.

It is my wish that man can someday look at themselves and not try to become better than others. But rather, it is my hope that they help others to become better human beings.

It is my wish that man can someday look at themselves and not try to rule other nations.

But rather, it is my hope that they help other nations promote peace and become the example for other nations to follow.

This Christmas, let us remember the Christmas of 1968. Every now and then our lives can be trying and disappointing, but bear in mind that Christmas is not about us. Christmas is about showing love and peace. While others may still want to hate, let us be the example to society and show everyone what this Holiday season is all about. We may not always succeed in helping others, but, like Martin Luther King, Jr. said in 1968, at least we tried.

"I'd like somebody to mention that day that Martin Luther King Jr. tried to give his life serving others. I'd like for somebody to say that day that Martin Luther King Jr. tried to love somebody... that I tried to love and serve humanity,. Yes, if you want to, say that I was a drum major for peace... for righteousness."

--Martin Luther King, Jr. (from a speech given in February, 1968, two months prior to his assassination.)

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Richard Watson
Chair, Davis County Democrats