

Merry Christmas



With Love From The



Johnson's

Bryan, Ben, Brett, Brad,
Rick Kathy



2006

Merry Christmas And A Happy New Year To All Our Friends

Bryan, 20, is a sophomore at Western Illinois University studying Criminal Justice. He had a crushing workload this past semester, featuring back breaking classes, 2 of which were "Personal Health" and "Concepts in Leisure". (What they teach kids these days!). He had a fun experience this past fall, when he and a number of his dorm floor buddies, volunteered to be "Hostages" in the local police department's Special Weapons & Tactics (SWAT) training held on a weekend. Bryan's role was to be a hostage who had been shot and needed rescue by the SWAT team. They doused him in fake blood, created a fake chest wound and told him to lie prone at the top of the stairs where they would toss in a stun bomb to disorientate any perpetrators to effect his rescue. Unfortunately, when they lobbed in the very real stun bomb, it went off against Bryan's leg necessitating a trip to the hospital. Bryan was fine but the ER doctors went nuts when they looked at Bryan walking into the ER with a gunshot wound dripping blood, until they saw that his injuries were fake.



Ben, 18 is a senior at Buffalo Grove High School. He graduates next June and is still investigating colleges - though probably (and thankfully) will opt for a state school. He played offensive tackle on his varsity football team and did very well.



I was very proud of the way that he worked at football even though he would like to have played more. He is playing soccer this winter with his buddies and also works after school each day with disadvantaged kids at the high school. (He quit the Hardware store.) Ben got his drivers license this year, and within a couple days had refashioned the basketball pole in our driveway into the Leaning Tower of Pisa. Ooops.

Brett, 16, is a sophomore at Buffalo Grove HS. He's doing great in school and never seems to be at a loss for any social activities. He lives for sports, especially his beloved football where he was the starting tailback for his team.

Did not have a single fumble, though of course we did have the annual Emergency Room visit - this one featuring him being taken by ambulance to hospital with a concussion. It scared us to death as they had him trussed up in a neck brace & back board, but after keeping him overnight for observation, they sprung him loose. He had a few weeks off, but then was back at it. He predicts that he will one day be a Heisman Trophy winner - though to me that's a possibility only if they give it for excellence in chatter.



Brad, 14, is a freshman at BGHS as well. This past summer he went to Level II Space Camp at the Cosmosphere in Kansas and commanded a team of 4 in their simulated Space Mission. Like his brothers, he lives for football and was the starting running back on his freshman team. They lost all of their games UNTIL the last one where they posted a victory in a driving rain storm. He grew over 6 inches this past year and works out religiously at the local fitness center. He played the role of Eugene in his school's production of "Grease". The role called for him to go from Class Geek to the coolest guy. He was superb.



Kathy, age unreported, is doing fine and still tickled that her cat isn't dead. (Check out that bizarre story on the web site!) Her job doing Medical Paperwork is winding down after over 23 years, but has plenty to keep her busy. She played in a ladies softball league this past summer, and unbelievably didn't get any feelers from any pro scouts. She signed us up for a Bowling Team, which I named the "Rolling Strikers" and we are in last place by a bunch. She went down to Florida for R&R several times this past year and tells me that we should buy a condo. I remind her that we already have a condo - sister Jean's.



Rick, 51, is as handsome as ever as you can see from the picture of Kathy & I taken earlier this year. Played plenty of golf this year at Prairie Dunes and Kemper Lakes (it is finally totally private!). Two highlights of the year. This past fall was asked by nephew-in-law John Perryman to come on stage with his band *Last Call Chicago*, as they played Idols Arena here in Palatine. I was pressed into action to sing Stones anthem "You Can't Always Get What You Want" and damn near brought the house down. Kathy was getting nervous with all the ladies rushing the stage. Second highlight was teaming up with Bro-In-Law Mike to play in a tournament at Prairie Dunes. We drew celebrity actors Brian Doyle Murray and his brother Bill Murray for our first match. We held them close for the 1st couple holes, until Bill started drinking and then they got good. They waxed us.

*From Our Family To Yours,
Peace, Health & God's Blessings
Be To You In 2007.*

This Year's Memorable Quotes...

“Tell Me The Good News Again?”

Rick asks sister Jean Gallo to repeat the “Good News” that she reported concerning our new 35k filly Salt Syn - who had just come through a surgical procedure. Jean excitedly said she was sound, but was unable to run - which is a crucial skill for a racehorse.

“Couldn't Be Better!”

Racehorse Vet Dr. Chris Lesbine exclaims on his post-operative examination of the left front knee of Salt Syn following her return from a Kentucky equine hospital. The mule still hasn't run a race for us - and the money keeps flying out the door.

“Get Him In Golf School!”

Actor Bill Murray of Caddyshack and Ghostbuster fame, directs Rick to encourage brother-in-law Mike Gregorio to enroll in golf school. Bill was astounded at how long Mike hit the ball in our nine hole Prairie Dunes match, even though Mike never actually landed a tee shot on the golf course property.

“So Your Boy Watson Sure Blew It!”

Next door neighbor & chatterbox Sharron Lee waltzes into the house and informs Rick of Tom Watson's final hole collapse at the US Sr. Open at his beloved Prairie Dunes. Mrs Lee hadn't noticed that Rick was watching a prior day tape delay of the action and had scheduled his entire weekend around watching the gripping action unfold - that she had now ruined.

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2007



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