



**Merry Christmas**



**And**



**HAPPY New Year**  
*From The Johnson's*



***Best Wishes For A Great 2002***

*Holiday Greetings To All Our Family and Friends  
Both Here in the States and Overseas.*

**K**athy, officially hit the big 4 - 0 this year. Cosmetic companies specializing in Age Spot Creams and Skin Tighteners might be excellent stock picks this year as her highness grapples with advancing age. She got fitted for her first pair of reading glasses this year as she's literally falling apart in front of our eyes. She stays ever busy though, having just hosted 26 for the family Thanksgiving last month.

How about this Kathy Story? After years of a strict 'No Pets' rule around the house, in a weak moment she agrees to let Brett bring home the 4 foot school python 'Monty' for the summer. Over the summer, Monty would require 3 separate feedings of a 'live medium rat' procured from the local pet store. I witnessed the first feeding and about passed out.

Unbelievably, toward the end of Monty's stay, Brett forgets to secure the top of Monty's pen and he disappears somewhere in THE HOUSE. 7 sleepless nights later Kathy still sees no sign of the blasted reptile. Finally, after baiting Monty with 'live medium rat' #3 in a newly purchased \$50 rat cage complete with exercise wheel, we find Monty has returned - sitting atop the terrified rats cage trying to get inside for dinner. That night Monty consumes Rat #3 and in the morning is headed back to school before the school term starts, as Kathy has pretty much had it with the summer snake-sitting assignment.

**R**ick turned a whopping 46 this year. Biggest news for me was a job change after 19 years with Motorola. In June I joined a company called Marconi, now responsible for all of their Information Technology. Marconi is a British Telecomms manufacturer HQ'd in London with US offices in Pittsburgh. Unbelievably, I commute Monday-Thurs to Pittsburgh and spend at least 1 week per month in London. Am enjoying the job very much though it has been a roller coaster since I started.

I was in the UK during the 11-Sep attack. The outpouring of support and strength from the British for Americans was truly touching. On 14-Sep I was in a cab in central London when the driver asked me if he could stop the cab precisely at 11:00am to observe the National Moment of Silence. The entire city stopped for 3 minutes in remembrance of the tragedy. He knew I was American by my accent. When he dropped me at the office following the observance, he said to me, 'You know we have more in common than our language.' We both had tears in our eyes.

**B**ryan, 15, is a Freshman at Buffalo Grove HS, where he made the 'A' squad Football team as starting left guard. He is active in Theatre & Debate at school. He was also confirmed this year at our church and did a great job - we were so proud. Football highlight for me was watching him recover a fumble at the Hersey game, even tho they lost. Great kid and he drives next year.

**B**en, 13, is in 7th grade at London Middle School. He is active in Baseball, Basketball and Wrestled last year too. We were very proud as Ben was awarded, not the Game ball, but the SEASON ball with his Little League team the Rangers. He attended the Kansas Cosmosphere Space Camp with cousin John and loved it. He goes back again next summer for level 2.

**B**rett, 11, is in 5th grade. The non-stop chatterbox of the family loves his sports and hit his 1st home run this summer, even though Bad Daddy missed it. His basketball team this year was 0-7 but that was probably because his dad was coach. Goes out every Saturday morning with Grandpa for breakfast, ordering exactly what Pop does. 2 eggs over easy, burnt bacon and potatoes, with whole wheat toast and grape jelly. Then like Grandpa, he cuts it up all together and wolfs it down. Just about makes you sick.

**B**rad, 9, is in the 4th grade at Riley. He did great at baseball this year and is also a Safety Patrol Boy at school. On Friday mornings I go on his post with him although he doesn't get much business on his corner. A highlight last Friday though, was we crossed a brown squirrel safely across the street. Still loves the WWF, although has soured on Stone Cold Steve Austin in favor of the Undertaker who I am happy to say has finally reformed. He made the whole family attend a WWF Smackdown show at the Allstate Arena. 18,000 people all there to watch fake wrestling. Hard to believe.

*In A Year of Unbearable Sadness and Uncertainty  
We Wish You God's Peace, Hope, and Love,*



**RICK KATHY BRYAN BEN BRETT BRAD**



*Check out 2001 Year In Review...*

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