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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

By State Representative Ron Crimm

The Spirit of Christmas is Hope, Goodness and Unity

This time of the year conjures up many different images, but one theme is common: Christmas is a time of excitement and joy. Neighborhoods and store windows brightly shine with lights and decorations. Children dream of the toys that Santa Claus will place under their tree. Adults pause a moment to remember the joys of Christmas past, reflect on time with loved ones and look ahead at the year to come.

Our nation's 30th president, Calvin Coolidge delivered a Christmas Day address and stated, "Christmas is not a time or a season but a state of mind. To cherish peace and good will, to be plenteous in mercy, is to have the real spirit of Christmas." Time has not hindered the meaning of this message delivered over 80 years ago as its sentiments still ring true in our society.

This season is not about the number of presents under your tree or what you will receive from others. To me, the true spirit of Christmas encourages us to give of ourselves. Give your time, a shoulder to lean upon or a helping hand. You never know the difference that one small gesture of kindness can make to someone in need.

The citizens of our state and nation are facing turmoil on many fronts. I freely admit that we are indeed facing some uncertain days, but at the same time, we are still some of the most richly blessed people. There are many issues that are contentious and have the possibility to cause division among our citizens, but I ask you to look past these challenges and differences. Even in these trying times, we are still fortunate to know firsthand the advantages and lifestyle that is the American dream.

Christmas provides us the unique opportunity to strengthen our faith, our spirit and our heart. The holidays have always been a time of renewal, an opportunity to renew my faith in our fellow man, our country and our world.

In just a few days, the 2010 Session of the Kentucky General Assembly will convene once again to do the people's work. This upcoming session promises to hold some unprecedented challenges that we will be asked to address. Some hard decisions will be made and complex solutions proposed, but all will be done with the goal of ensuring a brighter tomorrow. I ask my

colleagues to rise above partisan lines and beyond political agendas to meet the challenges that we will face in this session. For too long, politics has stood in the way of progress and I pledge to do all in my power to end that practice. You, as Kentuckians, deserve better.

I am excited about the upcoming year and the opportunities that lay before us. Serving as your State Representative is truly an honor and a privilege and I'd like to thank you for allowing me to be your voice in the Kentucky General Assembly. From my family to yours, have a very Merry Christmas and blessed Happy New Year.

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