

## Happy New Year 2000

(Greeting Message Sent To Family and Friends)

A New Year, Century & Millennium are beginning; however, the Eppes family will remember 1999 as the year of great changes in our family. September 25, 1999, Helen had a massive stroke which left her unable to speak and her right side paralyzed. Ann and Bill immediately came from North Carolina to Oak Ridge, and with Jane, presented a united family attack to offer moral support and help Helen and Charles through this most trying time. We were very lucky to find a wonderful care facility close to home where Helen started physical, occupational, and speech therapy five days a week. For the time being physical therapy has stopped as Helen is still unable to walk but her speech therapy continues. Family and friend's prayers have helped, and continue to help, all of us. After several months in Tennessee, Ann and Bill returned to North Carolina.

We were blessed in the first three quarters of 1999. March 1999, found us in North Carolina with Ann, Bill, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. Charles and great-grandson Tyler had a combined birthday celebration on March 19<sup>th</sup> on Tyler's first birthday . . . Charles was happy to admit he was a year older.

Bill and Ann joined Jane, Helen and Charles in Washington, D.C. during April to have a wonderful time at the Mayflower Hotel. The women attended various historic/patriotic organizational meetings while the men enjoyed site seeing. It was a good time for getting together and having a rousing good time.

Jane again participated in the March of Dimes WalkAmerica the end of April raising \$13,500 (more money to come). Jane was the #1 adult walker/fund raiser in East Tennessee and #20 adult walker nationwide.

We all thoroughly enjoyed the first weekend in May when we participated in another Eppes Virginia reunion. It was such a joy to visit old and dear family and friends and to become acquainted with new family members and make new friends.

August found Helen, Charles, and Jane in Myrtle Beach, SC, reveling in the ocean and all its accompanying wonders, which included people watching.

There is no doubt that this year has been saddened by Helen's stroke; her loss of mobility and inability to return home right now has been a sore trial to her and to her family and friends. Yet, we are all thankful for the time we have been able to spend together, before and after her stroke, and continue to be overwhelmed by the support of family, friends, and medical personnel. Helen's and our family's faith, along with the many prayers and kind acts of many, many people have helped sustain us during this time and will continue to do so in the future.

We all send you wishes for the brightest possible year in 2000, and ask that God Bless and Keep you.

Helen, Charles, Jane, Ann & Bill Eppes