

Florida Living History, Inc.

Gazette



As I leaf through the holiday flyer of various activities for December, it struck me how things have changed over the years in ways that families celebrate the season. I remember going to the local shopping center and sitting on Santa's lap to tell him my wish list (which usually consisted of either a pony or puppy or both if he could swing it). Now they have Santa doing virtual Zoom visits! How does he hand you a candy cane when the visit is over?

One event that is now on my calendar is the Wreaths Across America in which guests will have the opportunity to place a wreath on the graves of Veterans. Our community will be honoring Coach Eddie Shannon who is a 100 year old US Navy Veteran from WWII. This annual event all started with one man who visited Arlington cemetery as a boy on a school trip and had the desire to honor the brave men and women in some small way.

So as things continue to change with the times, remember that some things will always stay the same...Christmas carols, Hallmark movies and most of all love and joy.

Merry Christmas to all!



Chap's Corner



Most of you are probably familiar with the poem, "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day," by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1807-1882) but might not know about the story behind it. One day while his wife, Fanny, was setting the curls of their daughter's hair she had just trimmed, hot sealing wax dripped on Fanny's delicate dress. Ignited by a sea breeze blowing through the window, Henry wrapped himself around his wife, burning his own arms and face but his dear wife subsequently died from her burns sustained. The following Christmas Longfellow wrote, "How inexpressibly sad are all the holidays. Perhaps someday God will give me peace." His diary entry for December 25, 1862 records, "A merry Christmas say the children, but that is no more for me." Later the next year, Longfellow learned that his oldest son, Charles, a lieutenant in the Army of the Potomac, had been seriously wounded when a Minie ball passed under his shoulder blades damaging his spine. After finally regaining his faith in God, Henry was inspired to write the widely recognized poem on Christmas Day of 1864...

*I heard the bells on Christmas Day,
Their old familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet, the words repeat
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!*

*And thought how as the day had come,
The belfries of all Christendom
Had rolled along, the unbroken song
of peace on earth, good-will to men!*

*And in despair I bowed my head;
"There is no peace on earth," I said
"For hate is strong, and mocks the song
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!"*

*Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:
"God is not dead; nor doth he sleep!
The wrong shall fail, the right prevail,
With peace on earth, good-will to men!"*

*Till, ringing, singing on its way,
The world revolved from night to day,
A voice, a chime, a chant sublime
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!*

(http://www.whatsaiththescripture.com/Fellowship/Edit_I.Heard.the.Bells.html)

Wishing each of you a blessed Christmas and "peace on earth, good-will to men [and women]!"





Ocklawaha 2022





Dade City





Congratulations to
Co B. 1st Fl Artillery
on their
20th anniversary

Whatever is good ◻
Whatever is true
Goes with my ◻◻
Christmas Wish
to you ◻

*Christmas
Wishes*

*From our house to yours,
The Keeks*

