



# THE SOUTHERN DRAWL

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AREA III

2006 DECEMBER

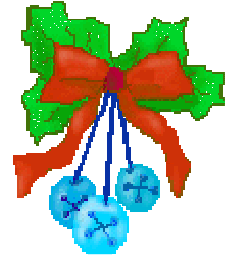
Alabama – Florida – Georgia - South Carolina – Tennessee - Puerto Rico - U S Virgin Islands

## CHRISTMAS ISSUE

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# MERRY CHRISTMAS

AREA III.....



From your Area III Directors

**E**njoy the collection of soothing Christmas poems/quotes extracted from some famous persons throughout this issue.

Good news from heaven the angels bring,  
Glad tidings to the earth they sing:  
To us this day a child is given,  
To crown us with the joy of heaven.

At Christmas I no more desire a rose,  
Than wish a snow in May's new-fangled shows;  
But like of each thing that in season grows.

**William Shakespeare**

Love came down at Christmas;  
Love all lovely, love divine;  
Love was born at Christmas,  
Stars and angels gave the sign.

**Christina Rossetti**

The merry family gatherings –  
The old, the very young;  
The strangely lovely way they  
Harmonize in carols sung.  
For Christmas is tradition time  
Traditions that recall  
The precious memories down the  
years,  
The sameness of them all.

**Helen Lowrie Marshall**

A Christmas gambol oft could cheer  
The poor man's heart through half  
the year.

**Sir Walter Scott**

Christmas hath a darkness;  
Brighter than the blazing noon;  
Christmas hath a chillness  
Warmer than the heat of June,  
Christmas hath a beauty  
Lovelier than the world can show:  
For Christmas bringeth Jesus,  
Brought for us so low.

**Christina Rossetti**

When Christmas bells are swinging above the fields of snow,  
We hear sweet voices ringing from lands of long ago,  
And etched on vacant places  
Are half-forgotten faces  
Of friends we used to cherish,  
And loves we used to know.

**Ella Wheeler Wilcox**

**Side by Side We Stand With Pride**

## AREA III STATE NEWS/INFORMATION

**Alabama**

**Florida**

**Georgia**

**M**embers of  
**AEANGGA AND EANGGA held a drawing for a life membership to EANGUS and a life membership to EANGGA on 18 December.**

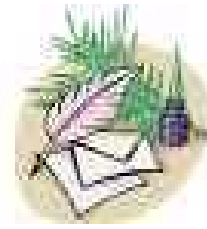
**South Carolina**

**Tennessee**

**F**rom the Volunteer News—  
Editor, Kathy Jackson

**Cares/concerns to:**

**Bob Murray  
Betty Belew  
Betsy Redmond  
Bill Jones  
Sara Hassell  
Alice Tubbs  
Bob Jackson**



**Calvin Coolidge**

To the American People: 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. If we think on these things, there will be born in us a Savior and over us will shine a star sending its gleam of hope to the world.

**Charles Dickens, *A Christmas Carol***

But I am sure that I have always thought of Christmas time, when it has come round... as a good time; a kind, forgiving, charitable, pleasant time; the only time I know of, in the long calendar of the year, when men and women seem by one consent.

**G. K. Chesterton**

When we were children we were grateful to those who filled our stockings at Christmas time. Why are we not grateful to God for filling our stockings with legs?

**Ray Stannard Baker**

I sometimes think we expect too much of Christmas Day.

We try to crowd into it the long arrears of kindness and humanity of the whole year. As for me, I like to take my Christmas a little at a time, all through the year. And thus I drift along into the holidays, let them overtake me unexpectedly, waking up some fine morning and suddenly saying to myself: "Why this is Christmas Day"

**Frank McKibben**

This is Christmas: not the tinsel, not the giving and receiving, not even the carols. But the humble heart that receives anew the wondrous gift -- the Christ.

**Joan Winmill Brown**

Christmas! The very word brings joy to our hearts. No matter how we may dread the rush, the long Christmas lists for gifts and cards to be bought and given, when Christmas Day comes there is still the same warm feeling we had as children, the same warmth that enfolds our hearts and our homes.

# MEMBERSHIP

## NATIONAL DUES PAYMENT DEADLINE

State Auxiliary  
Dues Payments and  
Membership Rosters  
must be mailed to the  
EANGUS Auxiliary  
Treasurer and

## POSTMARKED

not later than

## 31 December 2006

(If you need any assistance, let us know).



**Larry Wilde**, *The Merry Book of Christmas*  
Never worry about the size of your Christmas tree. In the eyes of children, they are all 30 feet tall.

**John Greenleaf Whittier**

Some how, not only for Christmas, But all the long year through, the joy that you give to others, is the joy that comes back to you. And the more you spend in blessing, the poor and lonely and sad, the more of your heart's possessing, returns to you glad.

**George F. McDougall**

Best of all Christmas means a spirit of love, a time when the love of God and the love of our fellow men should prevail over all hatred and bitterness, a time when our thoughts and deeds and the spirit of our lives manifest the presence of God.

**Taylor Caldwell**

This is the message of Christmas: We are never alone.

**John Greenleaf Whittier**

Somehow, not only for Christmas, But all the long year through, the joy that you give to others, is the joy that comes back to you. And the more you spend in blessing, the poor and lonely and sad, the more of your heart's possessing, returns to you glad.

**Eric Sevareid**

As long as we know in our hearts what Christmas ought to be, Christmas is.

**Burton Hillis**, *Better Homes and Gardens*

The best of all gifts around any Christmas tree: the presence of a happy family all wrapped up in each other.

**Dale Evans Rogers**

Christmas, my child, is love in action. Every time we love, every time we give, it's Christmas.



## LEGISLATIVE NEWS, BENEFITS UPDATES AND MORE

### 109th Congress Recessed

The 2nd session of the 109th Congress is officially on recess and will resume congressional business Jan 4th, 2007. Although some light congressional business continues to be worked and discussed the last session of the 109th Congress has ended. Thank you for your support of our National Guard family initiatives we pursued collectively throughout this past year. We, here in the legislative department at EANGUS, look forward to working together again as we present our 2007 legislative platform in the 1st session of the 110th Congress.

#### **Insurance companies pay refunds to troops**

*Elaine Wilson, American Forces Press Services –*

Life insurance companies are being held accountable for their improper sales practices to military members. Four companies in the past three months have agreed to a multi-state settlement agreement after Texas Department of Insurance investigators uncovered a pattern of deception to young troops.

Under the agreements, the companies will refund more than \$70 million to more than 93,000 consumers, including about 71,000 service members. The first settlement, reached Aug 3, 2006, came after a 20-month investigation by Texas and Georgia, together with the U.S. Department of Justice and the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, into the sales practices of three Waco, Texas-based companies:

American-Amicable Life Insurance Company of Texas

Pioneer American Insurance Company

Pioneer Security Life Insurance Company

**State regulators and federal agencies claim the life insurance companies “targeted young recruits and misled them into believing they were buying an investment product.” The service members were actually purchasing an expensive term-life product.**

The second settlement, reached Oct. 17, 2006, involves the Boston Mutual Life Insurance Company.

In 2004, investigators learned that several Boston Mutual agents were soliciting and selling life insurance to low-ranking Soldiers in the Foot Hood, Texas, area by misrepresenting the insurance as a savings or investment plan, said Jim Hurley, TDI spokesman.

The company will refund a total of \$427,529.57 to 1,784 military members who bought life insurance policies between Jan. 1, 2002 and April 30, 2005. Consumers who feel they are affected but have not received notification can call the companies’ consumer service center at **(800) 736.7311**.

#### **Montgomery GI Bill Act**

In the 110th Congress Representative Vic Snyder (D-AR) is introducing a bill to end the disparity between the active duty and National Guard and Reserve Component benefits. When called to active duty the National Guard and Reserve Components are eligible to receive \$860 a month if they serve a 2- year tour. But they must remain a Reserve Component member to use their benefit. Veterans can earn up to \$1,075 a month after Active Duty and those veterans retain their benefit for a decade after leaving the military.



**Peterson, *The Art of Living***

Christmas is not in tinsel and lights and outward show. The secret lies in an inner glow. It's lighting a fire inside the heart. Good will and joy a vital part. Its higher thought and a greater plan. It's glorious dream in the soul of man.

**Ruth Carter Stapleton**

Christmas is most truly Christmas when we celebrate it by giving the light of love to those who need it most.

**Hamilton Wright Mabic**

Blessed is the season which engages the whole world in a conspiracy of love.

*Angels have no ID  
bracelets on them.  
No features glow with  
heavenly delight.  
Given that their wings are  
made of feeling,  
Each flying angel's given to  
concealing  
Love's plumage like a  
rainbow in the night.  
Shyness cloaks the halos  
that surround them.*

Unknown

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AREA III !**