

Merry Christmas from The Rion Family !

This year has been such a busy year for our family and the fact that I am at work on Christmas Eve writing this letter is proof of our hectic schedule. Within a week we will be celebrating the New Year 2009 and our 26th wedding anniversary. Thank goodness that Christmas slows us down a bit to reflect on what is important in our lives and take time to connect with the many people we love and care about.

As for Bob and Sharon, we are working at the same companies (CSG Systems and St. John the Baptist Catholic Church) and are thankful that we have not been hit with any lay offs. Bob has tackled many at-home projects and has been 'Techno Bob' (as Diane Hastings calls him) for friends and family. Bob did find time this year to go black powder hunting and came home with a deer the first day. He also enjoys Geo-Caching and our nieces and nephews always look forward to trekking around with Uncle Bob finding hidden treasures. Sharon continues to enjoy photography which has taken us to many 'out in the middle of no where' places. Sharon took on the task of painting the house this past summer. The weather (rain and more rain) didn't make the task easy. Her month off flew by and she decided to finish the other 2 walls next spring.



Craig has been stationed in Iraq since June. He was able to come home for leave this past October and is scheduled to return to the USA next fall. The computer age has been a blessing for us. We are able to communicate with Craig at least once or twice a week- which really helps all of us feel a little closer to him. We were able to go visit him a few times in Texas before he shipped out. He is in good spirits and has made some good friends there. Since we (our family) have been stationed overseas before, we try to keep him updated on things back here and we send him a box of 'goodies' at least once a month. We are very proud of Craig and his decision to serve our country. If you would like to write Craig send Sharon an email (srion@rions.com) and she will send you his address.

Kristin is now 17 and a junior in high school. She maintains her 4.0 and has started the chore of deciding where she wants to go to college. In addition to school, Kristin is on the speech team, quiz bowl team, drama club, student council, and she lectures at our church. She was asked to be the MC at this year's Veteran's Day program, which was special since so many family members, including Craig, have served in the Armed Forces. She went to a few camps this past year and has made many new friends. She is very social and has put a lot of miles on 'Mitch' (Craig's old car) this year.



We are blessed to have great friends and a wonderful extended family. We hope to visit with those we have not seen in a while. (Kristin's college visits may take us to different states.) Next June we will be having a party for Bob as he celebrates 10 years cancer FREE! We'll send out invitations at a later date. Our door is always open, so feel free to visit anytime you are by Omaha.

Bob, Sharon, Craig and Kristin Rion