

FRIDAY FOLLIES

November 9, 2007





Hey!

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What a week! What a week! Hope you had a great one, too.

This week gave a bit of a preview for this time next year. The elections were this week and many surprises were dealt, that is for sure. If the truth be known, I have been very involved with the Democratic party and also very involved with the Republican party over the years. All I can honestly say is, there are GOOD people in BOTH parties.



I know that may upset some folks, but it is the God's Honest Truth! GOOD people in BOTH! I will follow that statement up by saying there are many "KOOKS" in both parties, too! (LOL!) Go to any Democratic or Republican grass roots event in your area - and there it is! The extremist element - those who HATE EVERYONE on the other side of the fence. What a shame! To my way of thinking, they are missing the mark on what this country truly stands for!



I am sorry, I simply do not see it as that black and white! You have to weigh the times, the circumstances, the area, the issues, and the people who are running - regardless of the party. You can align yourself with one party or the next, but this world changes DAILY - globally! There is absolutely no reason you have to stick with one party line or the other. VOTE for the person who will do the best job for the times! Period! At least, that is my belief. That person may be different today than a year from now. That is the beauty of it. You can wait, watch, read, meditate, pray, and decide when it is time. No one should try to tell you who is "good" or "evil." Read and study for yourself! That is your right, AND it is your *responsibility!*



I saw many friends re-elected! I saw many lose! I saw many voted in for the first time! That, in my humble opinion, is what makes it all work!



My favorite was Dr. Ralph Northam who won a Senate seat over a two-term incumbent here in the area. He is a good man! His wife is a good friend, and I can tell you, they do not come any better or more honest. Just GOOD, caring, honest people who feel it is time to give back!

Did I hate his opponent - NO! I actually think his opponent is a good man, too. It was just time for a smart change.

(Have I made my point? Sorry... on my soap box... I am allowed occasionally...)

Does that mean I will vote democratic next year for the President? Not at all. I plan to wait, watch, read, study, and see what the times bring and who we need to "step to the plate." I KNOW many of you reading this are dyed-in-the-wool Democrats and Republican, and this will not please you at all, but I honestly believe that is the attitude we should all take.



I actually LIKE and RESPECT President Bush! I DO! But that has nothing to do with it. I truly believe he was the right man for the job at that time. Now, well, we will see - but I firmly believe it is time to look very fairly and open-mindedly at the options - ALL of them. We have a year to complete our mission!

And I promise never to push my opinions on you! Fair? OK!

My friend whose husband was running for the Senate seat is so beautiful - inside and out! She was so cute the night of the election. She was just kinda hanging around, and at one point I had to say, "GO! It is time to leave! They are getting ready to introduce your husband and you need to walk in with him!"

She knew that, but it was fun to see her so excited to have friends around. It was all so new to her.



This last shot is of her being interviewed for the first time by a reporter. She is graceful, eloquent, humble, charming, and sincere. She will have no problems, I assure you.

Now, for those of you who knew about my friend whose son was to return from Iraq in October and was injured the very week he was to return home -



**He finally made it home to the USA,
and safe. His words are powerful.**

*"Friends and Family,
As you probably already know I'm back
home with my family in Hawaii. My four-
teen months in Iraq already seem a distant
memory now that wife and child, good food
(and beer), surfing, and the finer aspects of
civilization are back in my life. The notice-
able upgrade in security is a big boon as
well. Aside from the occasional momen-
tary panic that I've lost my pistol, I'm fully
integrated and happy as a lark...*



*...And I have to thank each of you, who in your own way helped
me shoulder the load during our tour in Iraq...*

*... My sincerest thanks to the cast of friends and family who
kept me in business with coffee, great books, updates on
life in the US, music, movies, encouragement, the protection
of the Saints, the prospect of boiled peanuts, cold beer and
baseball, and who brightened my home for our return... Please
keep us in your prayers, as you did this last year... And I've
been told that there are others who I don't even know; friends
of friends, who kept my family in their prayers, or who put my
picture up in their office – if you know one of these good people please share this message
with them... Aside from thanks I should tell you that your support matters. Although I'm not
qualified to make predictions on the future I can tell you that the American Soldier is winning.
We never lost a single engagement. Al Qaeda in Iraq is being defeated in every corner of the
battlespace. Most significantly he is losing the battle of ideas. I had the pleasure of working
first hand with an emerging group of military age males who are now on our flank fighting for
Iraq. I hope that the political can catch up with the tactical, so that the Iraqi people can finally
have victory... Lastly, on the eve of All Saints and All Souls, please keep our departed soldiers*



in your prayers that they might live forever in paradise, and for the saints among them, that they might watch over their buddies still in the fight. Thanks..."

Does that say it all, or what? You may fill in the ...s as you please, but those are words straight from the front. Our boys and girls and men and women are not working and fighting and dying in vain. God bless every one of them! And lets remember that when they come home.

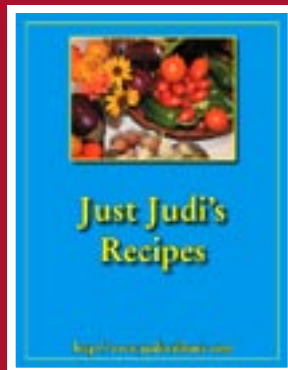
(OK, wound up tonight. Sorry! Just had a few things I needed to get off my chest!)

On the home front:

- **STILL bringing in veggies and canning! Amazing considering it is mid- November!**
- **Jeremy and Karla are starting to "long" for California, a bit, so we will see what the next few weeks bring.**
- **Jessica is forlorned at the amount of work attached to being a teacher. Truthfully, she is amazed! I get a phone call every day or so from her wondering if it ever gets easier. I assure her that it does, but that is why teachers try to teach the same grade for a number of years. Unless you have done it, you have absolutely no idea how much preparation it takes!**



• **A Friend just launched her new website! Her artwork is to die for. I have featured it in the Follies before. I will add her to my links. Please visit. She is nationally honored and recognized! Simply beautiful stuff!**



• **Planning and getting ready for the "BIG SALE" coming up the Saturday after Thanksgiving. I had a friend who was in an event in the same place tonight, and they had a packed house! I can only hope for the same!**

I have been planning a bit, and have come up with a cookbook for my products, a price sheet, posters, and so on. I also am planning a page for the website which will show which paintings have been sold thus far.

LOTS of work to do, still.



OK! I am sorry if I offended any of you tonight! Just feeling my "oats," so to speak!

God bless! Sincerely! Pray for our troops. As you can see, it is doing some good!

To all of you on my Friday Follies List, whether you are in Manila, Singapore, Kuwait, Bermuda, Virginia Beach, Mississippi, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Minnesota, Indiana, Colorado, Lake Tahoe, Philadelphia, Key West, New Jersey, North Carolina, Indonesia, Washington D.C., Iraq, Costa Rica, Poland, Maryland, West (By-God) Virginia, Nashville, Florida, Saudi Arabia, Chattanooga, France, Phoenix, New York, Oregon, Russia, Maine, Australia, Bangkok, or Yuma, have a wonderful, wonderful week!

*God bless.
Remember, life is short!
We need to make it a good one.
Grow in peace and wisdom.
Your Friday Friend,*



Judi Godsey

PS. NOTE OF CAUTION. . . 20 employees were fired from The New York Times here in Norfolk for sending lewd and indecent emails. (To my knowledge, none of the 20 were on our joke list - even though some of the attorneys who represent the company were!) I have asked each and every one of you on this list to tell me if the jokes that accompany these "Follies" place you in jeopardy, or even if they offend you. Please understand that they are intended to be light-hearted and are not mean-spirited in any way. If you are ever offended, do not hesitate to ask to be taken off the Friday Follies Joke List. PSS. If you send a joke and I don't use it, it is because it has been used before, and I try not to repeat. Remember, I have been sending these since August of 1997. One tends to go through huge numbers of jokes that way. Disclaimer: When anyone asks if I type all of these jokes, the answer is, "No!" I cut and paste one evening during the week (30 minutes, TOPS). Obviously I don't have time to sit, read, and retype jokes all day!