

FRIDAY FOLLIES

November 16, 2007



Hey!

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Happy Thanksgiving - almost! I hope you have one of the most meaningful Thanksgivings, ever!

We could all use one about now... a time to stop and reflect on all of the things that are so important in our lives. It all gets so complicated sometimes – and tiring – and if you are like me, sometimes you get so busy, you forget what you are doing it all for!

That is why Thanksgiving is truly my favorite holiday of the year. We aren't *giving* anything—but thanks! And the future always promises wonderful blessings, times with family and friends, and rekindled hopes for the year to come. It brings with it an awareness that makes us pause and think about all of our blessings—large and small—since this time last year—and if you let it—throughout your lifetime.

Before I go any farther, I want to share this simple Thanksgiving prayer with you that was written by the chief of the Shawnee Nation in the 1700s.

“When you rise in the morning, give thanks for the light, for your life and for your strength. Give thanks for your food and for the joy of living. If you see no reason to give thanks, the fault lies in yourself.”

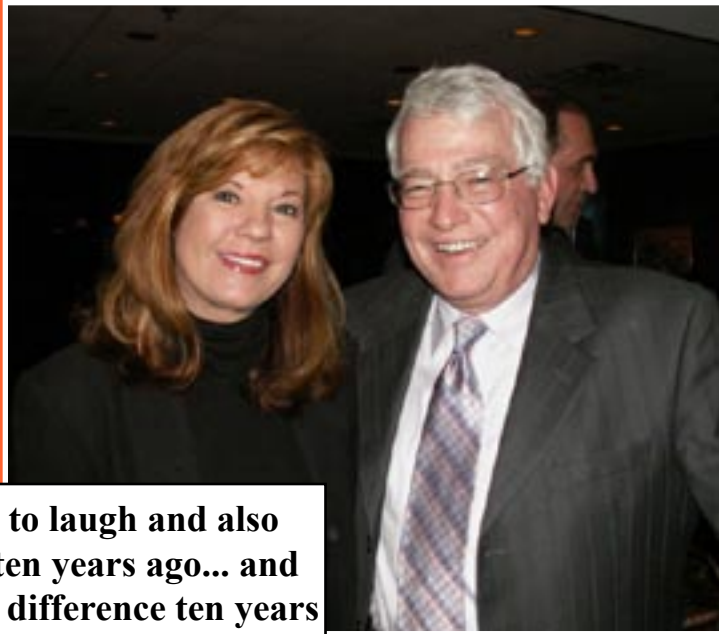
What a simple truth to live by—everyday.

My children and I will be spending Thanksgiving together. We will have our traditional Thanksgiving dinner at Ricky's parents' home that evening. But the thing I am most looking forward to is Thanksgiving afternoon...



Since Ricky and his parents have to work that day, Jess will be alone. Since Jeremy's Karla had to return to California for business, he will be alone. Since I am on the Advisory Board of the Hampton Roads Salvation Army's Adult Rehabilitation Center, Board members have been asked if they would like to help serve the men their Thanksgiving meal. Jeremy, Jessica, and I are so excited! We will be going as a family to the center to serve the men that afternoon! To my way of thinking—it will make our Thanksgiving even more special...

With that said, I am headed into an extremely busy week (as we all are). With looming deadlines, special events at work, Thanksgiving food preparations, planning and getting ready for the big Holiday exhibit this next Saturday—well—I may not have a chance to write again. So I will try to pack a lot into a little space here...



These photos make me want to laugh and also cry! Here we are a little over ten years ago... and again last night! Man! What a difference ten years makes! There it is, starring you right in the face!

Last night was such a special time! My friend for many years, Leo Wardrup, was honored for his service to our country and to the commonwealth of Virginia. He served twenty-eight years in the Navy and sixteen years in the General Assembly House of Delegates, representing Virginia's 83rd District. He decided this past year to step down. This after serving on and chairing numerous crucial committees that determined major issues for our state and our region.

A somewhat controversial character (Hahahaha!), he is one of my favorites with absolutely nothing but the *best* for everyone in his heart and mind! (Something many of you at my love, *The Virginian-Pilot*, never "got!")

He was honored by numerous dignitaries and was surrounded by lifetime friends and business associates. It was a very impressive and fitting affair.

The coolest two gifts were this box of "Total" which cracked everyone up - Totally! Look at this photo of Leo! – which actually was a bit of a legendary photo here in the region! Hahahaha!

And this incredible painting of his "second love" (Gloria is his first!) - his sailboat, *The Black Widow!* Just beautiful!

One of my high school friends lives in Northern Virginia now and is very good friends with Leo and Gloria, as well - very long, very funny story there about how we became "reconnected" after twenty some-odd years, (Thanks to the Follies!) but that is a story for another





time. Anyway, Mike was pleased to meet some of the politicians and dignitaries first-hand. Anyway, it was just a fun-filled evening with a totally **HILARIOUS Roast** of Leo!

Again, here are a few more photos of “before” and “afters.” (It was great seeing you again, Glen!) There were many others there that I had not seen in a number of years. It was just a great time! I have to tell you, though, and I say this in all humbleness (is that a word?) Countless folks mentioned during the evening that they still get and enjoy the Follies each week. It truly blew me away! Many of them, I did not even know were on the list! Really funny - and a bit intimidating, I might add... (smile).

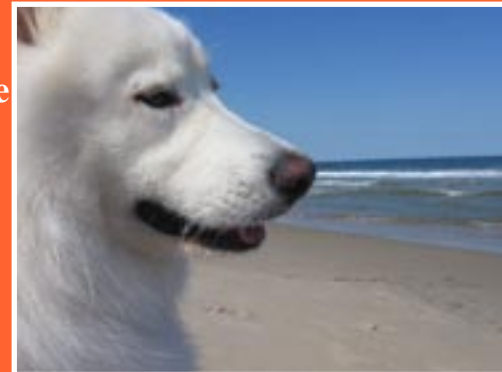
OK - Onward -

A few other things I wanted to mention this week.

First - I BROKE TWO TOES THIS WEEK!! That is one reason these Follies are later than usual. It has just been too difficult to climb the stairs! Ouch!

You see, earlier this week, I was playing with Oliver after his nightly “walk.” He was still feeling rambunctious and was running through the house. I told him to stop, and I would let him out in the backyard to play. We were giggling and being silly, and as I was racing him to the door - for whatever reason - he decided to stop - **DEAD** in his tracks! Obviously, I did not stop and barrelled right into his hind leg. (Yes, I was barefooted!)

I fell on the floor crying in pain, and he thought I was still playing. For about five minutes, he continued to dart around me the house like a “crazed polar bear” and then, finally, realized I was not getting up! He began to whimper and then continued through the week to slink around the house! I tried to keep reassuring him that everything was OK, but he obviously could tell it was not. Very sweet and **ALL** my fault! Thank Heavens he was not hurt at all! But it has been an interesting week wearing “slippers” to work. I actually went to K-Mart and bought a pair of \$10 black, “puffy” boots to wear to the event last night! I kept explaining to folks why I was wearing them because I looked like a complete idiot! Hahaha! I am sooo much better now—thank heavens—with the week that is approaching!



I am getting things read (when I can) for the big exhibit/sale this next weekend. It is going to be FUN! I have to tell you, though... Karla had volunteer (enthusiastically, I might add) to help me the whole day! The show is from 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. the Saturday after Thanksgiving at the Fraternal Order of Police Headquarters on Birdneck Road.

Well, as I said before, she had to return to California, and suddenly, I began to FREAK! I realized I would not have anyone there to help me HEAR! I am OK on a one-on-one basis, but put me in a crowded room (Truthfully, I do OK and can fake it pretty well), but it is so *fatiguing*! I have to listen and concentrate ten-times harder than the “normal” hearing person, and trying to do that, explain things, make change, etc., I realized I was in BIG TROUBLE! (That was *BEFORE* I broke two toes!) So, last weekend, I sent out an S.O.S. to a few friends in the area that I knew would understand my plea! I was OVERWHELMED with the responses!

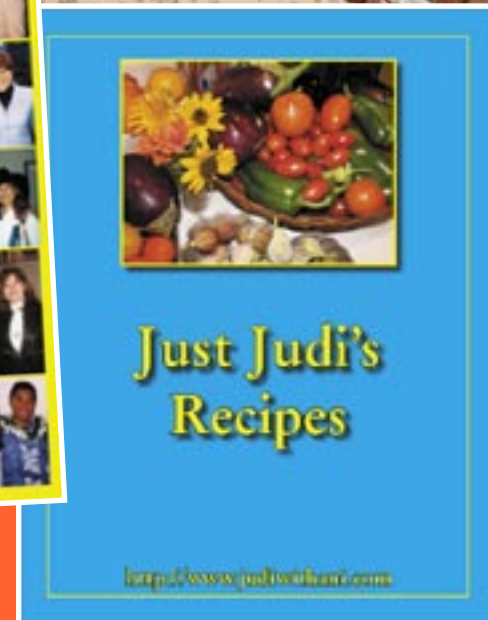
TOTALLY OVERWHELMED!

The only no’s I got were from friends that were going to be out of town or had guests in- (That and a couple that have still not picked up the email!) I am just so very tickled! It will, honestly, make it even more fun!

In addition to hundreds of homegrown, canned delicacies, I have prepared FIFTY Christmas baskets which contain six, 4 & 8 oz. jars of EVERYTHING... (“sampler baskets” if you will), cook books, paintings, and heck, maybe even a few of these *damn birds*! Ha! (I have four new babies this week!)

It has been a lot of work, but it will also be a lot of fun. I will take photos and will also let you know how it goes. It should be very crowded - not just because of the date - (Black Friday and Saturday!) but because it goes to benefit the Children’s Hospital of the King’s Daughters.

(You should see my living room right now!)



One last note before I close! My sweet friend, Marta, has started her own business. She is incredibly talented and resourceful. I have added her to my "links page" on the website. Please look up her site for yourself and see what all she can do! This young woman is a marvel! Whether you are in Virginia Beach or Long Beach, Marta can help you plan your personal or professional event! Love you, girl!

Go to: <http://judiwithani.com>

Then go to the links site to learn about Marta's company!



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

P.S. 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!