



Christmas 2019



Dear Friends and Family,

Merry Christmas 2019

It was a busy 20 months: Getting engaged, being married, each selling a home, together finding a home to rent with the necessary downsizing and moving, then seeking a home to own with more downsizing and moving



from the rental. Whew! We knew that *"Home is where the heart is,"* but we had trouble remembering what box we packed it in. The house is still near a Walmart and a bit closer to Jay's golf course and his racquetball courts so all is well in those regards. And still not that far from Joyce's daughter Michelle, so that is good also. Note that a six-mile move is **not** easier than a thousand-mile move. For a short move you want to move "precious" items by yourself in 35 carloads of boxes that have to be bought, self-packed, loaded in a car, transported, and unloaded. For the thousand mile move you self-pack one box of *really* precious items and stand back while the movers do the work. By the way, our *next* move will be into a treatment facility.

Joyce continued to serve as a volunteer Patient Advocate for her many friends. When we need medical care we are served by trained professionals using modern diagnostic tools and medications. But laymen do not know what questions to ask. I think Joyce was practicing nursing with Florence Nightingale: she knows what questions to ask and what doctors to seek. Seriously, her expertise literally saves lives.

Joyce also continued to demonstrate her gardening prowess by not only winning the Blue Ribbon for each of her two submissions in the Florida Strawberry Festival Horticulture Competition, but she won Best of Show ... meaning one of her Blue Ribbon submissions was better than any other Blue Ribbon plant in any other category. Best of the best! Of course I can confirm the awards, but all the plants look like some type of green bush, to me.

Among our many good times this year, Joyce took her whole family on Caribbean cruise. The adventure included the great Atlantis water park in Nassau and Royal Caribbean's private island CocoCay. We proved again that if you cruise you can't lose. Seas the day!

This year Jay and Joyce each turned 75, which is not old, just more Chronologically Gifted. Though I do have



friends who tell me my supply of brain cells is now down to a manageable number. Plus Good News: At 75, no more calls from life insurance salesmen! So how did we celebrate? We went to one of those highly advertised, all-inclusive resorts in the Caribbean where "all you need is love." While there we had two unusual experiences; swimming with pigs and swimming with sharks – things Joyce said she would never do – but she did. And – by the way – very, very, very few of the



actual guests at this "deluxe" resort even remotely resembled those hunks and babes on the commercials.

Now wishing you the best for this Christmas and the coming years. May you continue to grow in God's grace, mercy, and love.

Jay and Joyce
The Braden Family:
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Jay, Joyce, kids, grandkids, and (spoiled) kat
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Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV): "For I know the plans I have for you..." declares the Lord
Isaiah 55:8-9 (NIV): "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways ...," declares the Lord

Our **new** address: 1021 Legends Pass Drive, Valrico, FL 33594