



# K A N S A S

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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For immediate release:  
December 19, 2006

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## **Governor's Column Reminders of life's blessings**

*The following is a column by Governor Kathleen Sebelius*

Standing in the living room of Cedar Crest is a nine-foot tall Scotch Pine Christmas tree. It was grown here in Kansas and brought to Cedar Crest by a horse-drawn wagon.

On it, amidst the lights, are ornaments my boys made when they were little, ornaments I had when I was a child, and ornaments given to me by friends over the years.

These serve as little reminders of life's blessings and of having my family home for the holidays, celebrating Christmas with my father, my husband and our two sons. For a mother, there is no greater gift.

As governor, my thoughts often turn to the Kansas mothers and fathers whose own children will not be home this year – children who are now grown men and women, serving their country overseas.

As a state, we have taken steps to honor and support our military men and women, and we will continue to do so.

As a community, we have sent gifts and supplies, and we'll continue to do so. But this year, we must all remember to give that one thing for which there can never be enough.

We must give our love – to these brave men and women, to their friends, and, most importantly, to the families whose most precious keepsake is not an ornament on a tree, but a yellow ribbon on their lapel or a Service Star Banner in their window.

So as you celebrate this month, please send your love in letters, in prayers or in a simple "thank you" to all those willing to give everything, in a world where so many have nothing.

That is a true present. That is giving. That is Christmas.

God bless us all, and God bless the great state of Kansas.

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