

LOFTON LAGNIAPPE MONTHLY EMPLOYEE NEWS



Christmas Decorating Safety

December is here! It's the season to trim the tree and make your home merry and bright with those twinkling lights. According to the U.S. Fire Administration, nearly 400 household fires each year are caused by holiday lights and decorations. As you get those boxes of Christmas decorations and try to untangle the lights, be sure to follow some simple safety tips to ensure a safe and very Merry Christmas.

- When taking lights out of storage, be sure to inspect lights for frayed wires, broken sockets or other signs of wear. Test each light string before use.
- When purchasing new lights, be sure to check the package for indoor or outdoor use. Putting indoor-only products outside in the weather can result in electric shock and fire hazards.
- When purchasing a fresh Christmas tree, pick a green, moist tree. The needles should bend or break.
- If purchasing an artificial tree, be sure it is labeled or certified as fire retardant.

- NEVER place your tree near ignition sources such as fireplaces, space heaters, candles, and overhead lights.
- Avoid connecting more than three strings of lights together.
- DO NOT route extension cords under rugs or near walkways.
- Keep electrical connections off the ground. There are lots of products and easy DIY ideas to keep connections dry.
- Turn off or unplug holiday lights late at night or when you are away from home. Use a timer to automatically turn lights on and off based on a set schedule.
- NEVER burn your tree, wreaths or wrapping paper in the fireplace, which can contribute to creosote buildup.



Robert Collins In Memoriam



With a heavy heart we announce the passing of a valuable employee and friend. Mr. Robert Collins, Little Rock, passed away on November 1, 2021 of natural causes.

Robert served his country with honor in the United States Navy in Vietnam as a Seal and later in the Naval Reserves. He retired as a Lt. Commander with multiple Purple Hearts, Bronze and Silver Stars among other honors.

Robert had many careers ultimately serving as Field Supervisor for the Arkansas branch of Lofton Security. He loved riding motorcycles, and never passed up an opportunity to share a meal with a friend. Everyone that knew

him will remember when asked how he was doing, he would always answer, "Old, round, ugly and meaner than a cur dog," but he was really happiest when he could put a smile on your face. While he didn't suffer fools lightly, he himself would suffer foolishly to help someone he loved.

"Robert was the first person I hired when we opened the Little Rock office to serve as the Security Field Operations Supervisor for Arkansas. His presence will surely be missed by the entire Lofton team in Arkansas" - Tom Maupin.

Use this time to remember veterans and take a moment to thank them while you can for their service and sacrifice. On the day he died, Robert still carried with him shrapnel, and pain at times, as reminders of his own sacrifice and dedication. His sense of country, duty and self will be sorely missed as an example to all who came in contact with him.

DECEMBER 2021

DECEMBER 21
First Day of Winter



DECEMBER 25
Christmas Day

HOLIDAY HOURS
Closed Noon
Thursday, Dec. 23rd

Closed
Friday, Dec. 24th



DECEMBER 31
New Year's Eve

HOLIDAY HOURS
Closed Noon
Thursday, Dec 30th

Closed
Friday, Dec. 31st





Little Things Mean a Lot

By: Glenda Lofton, Ph.D.

With all the chaos occurring in today's world--the COVID virus requiring masks and separation from others, the closing of schools and businesses, the violence in our cities, the disregard for human life, the lack of security on our border, the abandonment of Americans in Afghanistan, the attacks on the nation of Israel, and recent reports that only 50 percent of Americans still believe in God, it is easy to get discouraged. But it is also a great time for reflecting on the things that really matter in life. Sometimes "it's the little things that mean a lot."

As I thought about that, I was reminded of a time fourteen years ago when Bret Lofton called me from Lafayette to tell me, "Mom, I have a topic for your column if you ever need one--'Little Things Mean a Lot.' You know that newsletter I've been receiving on parenting? The latest one talked about the importance of the little things--like spending time walking with your kids. We just walked to the end of our street and back and talked as we walked. Well, today when I picked Megan and Samuel up after school I heard Megan whispering to Samuel excitedly, 'Samuel, maybe today Daddy will let you walk with us.' I couldn't believe it!" He continued with just a touch of emotion in his voice. "I can believe it" I thought as I hung up, "because as a mother, that phone call meant a lot!"

For days after that, words from a song popular during the 50's (when I was younger) kept playing over and over in my head. The song was called as you may have guessed, "Little Things Mean a Lot" (Lindeman & Stutz):

*"Don't have to buy me diamonds or pearls...
Cause honestly, Honey, they just cost money..." (Tommy loves that part!)
"Give me your hand when I've lost my way,
Give me your shoulder to cry on.
Whether the day is bright or gray
Give me your heart to rely on.
For always and ever, now and forever
Little things mean a lot..."*

Not only was I haunted by the words, but I found myself "tuning in" to the little things that made a difference in my daily life, both at home and in the workplace. Back then, we had the Lofton Christmas party at our house so I bought the tallest tree I could find because we have cathedral ceilings. Thankfully, I met a man called Rex who traveled to Baton Rouge every year with a shipment of Christmas trees from his home in North Carolina. His trees were not only reasonably



priced, but for a small fee, he would deliver one to your house, put a stand on it including a pan for watering, and set it up inside. When I was about half through decorating one of the first trees I bought from him, I looked down and realized I was standing in a huge puddle of water; the plastic pan was leaking on my wooden floor. I rushed to the tree lot to tell Rex what had happened. After the tree lot closed, Rex sent a team of men to my house to attempt to lift the tree out of the stand so that I wouldn't have to remove the decorations. When that failed, these men who had worked all day long carefully helped me remove the decorations and completed the job. After that, when Rex learned about my hectic December schedule as a working mom, he volunteered in future years to select my tree for me and put my name on it. One year when I went by to arrange for him to deliver the tree, he discovered someone had accidentally sold it. He went all over Baton Rouge looking for a tree that would be just right, bought it, and charged me exactly what he had paid for it. Sadly, Rex no longer comes to Baton Rouge, and I never learned why, but I will never forget his kindness to me. He taught me that little things mean a lot, and like Bret, you'll probably feel that "wow." As we like to say, "When you help someone else you've really helped yourself."

In today's world, it is so easy to get caught up in the negative things occurring. Christmas is a great time for recommitting to the things that bring true happiness--loving God wholeheartedly, loving others, and treating others the way we want to be treated (Matthew 26:37-40, Matthew 7:12), and remembering that "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believes in Him will not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). Have a Blessed Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Lofton Receives Platinum Work Safe Award

We are very proud to announce that Lofton Staffing Services has received the prestigious Platinum Work Safe Award distributed annually by Texas Mutual Insurance Company.

The Texas Award Program recognizes policyholders whose commitment to employee safety sets them apart in safety standards. Lofton is one of just 200 businesses out of 72,000 policyholders across Texas to receive this award. "We selected Lofton Industries because they provide the resources necessary to protect employees from workplace hazards, which is reflected by their outstanding safety record. Simply put, it is clear that safety is a core value in the organization." - Eric Bourquin, Texas Mutual Insurance Company.

We are very proud of this award which solidifies the hard work and dedication of Jeremy Olivier and our entire safety division. We thank our clients, employees and staff for achieving our high safety standards. We don't just say that we have the best service in the industry, WE PROVE IT!

