

# Airmen and Family Readiness Bulletin

*Youngstown Air Reserve Station*

## 2007 FAMILY OF THE YEAR!

This year the Family of the Year Award timeframe was moved to the month of November, when the DoD formally recognizes military families across the services.



*The Lough-Kountz Family from left to right: Donny, Sara, Elisha, Colleen, and Ken*

The winner of the 2007 Family of the Year is the family of TSgt Colleen Lough-Kountz (pictured below). The family was cited for their support of one another, their support of the military/military mission, and their support of the community.

TSgt Lough-Kountz wrote eloquently about her family and 15 years of teamwork:

*As any mom would tell you, I think that my family is worthy of the family of the year award because each and everyday their life is affected in some way by my serving my country — without their unending loving support, I would not have been able to keep my service commitment as long as I have.*

Congratulations to this outstanding family and thank you to the other military families nominated for the honors. The selection committee was impressed with the depth of support, compassion, and patriotism of everyone.

### OTHER NOMINATED FAMILIES:

- SMSGT BUTCH SACKETT FAMILY
- MSGT LARRY PRIDEMORE FAMILY
- EXTENDED FAMILY OF SSgt KYRSTEN RILLING

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## MAKE A SONG ACTIVITY—A CHRISTMAS MADLIB

Type of Food (Plural) _____	Another Celebrity (Male) _____
Celebrity _____	Plural Noun _____
Part of the Body _____	Plural Noun _____
Plural Noun _____	Occupation _____
Occupation (Plural) _____	Animal (Plural) _____
Noun _____	Adjective _____
Plural Noun _____	Occupation (Plural) _____
Part of the Body (Plural) _____	Number _____
Verb _____	Adjective _____

**INSTRUCTIONS:** One person asks another to call out the type of word (we have put the words here with the final story on the back page in case you want to play solo). Then the words are put in order into the song blank spaces.

*We look forward to hearing your version of this popular Christmas carol!*

*Love is what is in the room with you, if you stop opening presents and listen.*  
*Anonymous, but attributed to a boy named Bobby*

## SPEAKING OF BABIES .....

In Barbra Streisand’s Christmas Song, “The Best Gift”, she sings of how the gift of a newborn baby child makes all the other things of Christmas so much better. So true.

But we want to make sure that you know there are gifts for you when having a new baby too!

The Air Force Aid Society provides a layette, called Bundles for Babies, for all airmen of any rank who are having a baby (it doesn’t matter if it’s the first or tenth). It is required that the member come to Family Support and sign for the bundle of goodies shortly before or after the birth.

Navy and Marine personnel can also receive a layette of goodies through Navy Emergency Relief by contacting the Family Support Office.

All branches can receive a Seabag layette from the USO Cleveland, [www.usocleveland.org](http://www.usocleveland.org).

## TOYS FOR TOTS



Toys for Tots is a Marine program administered by the Salvation Army. The Marine detachment on Youngstown is heavily involved in collecting toys for children in families in need. They are part of a

national effort to help communities everywhere.

The process for Toys for Tots involves letting the Salvation Army in your area know you are needing some assistance.

*There are deadlines, so get*

*there quickly!*

If you need more information about Toys for Tots, you can call the Marines Hotline to get more information at (330) 609-1903 or go to [www.toysfortots.org](http://www.toysfortots.org)

## SUPPORTING DEPLOYED PERSONNEL

Want to support a deployed troop, but don't personally know any? Would it make your holiday to send a care package to someone who wants one, but don't know what to put in it?

At the Airmen and Family Readiness Office we have names and addresses of some deployed personnel, across the branches of service, who have given us permis-

sion to give their names/addresses out for care packages that they are willing to share with those around them.

Otherwise, you can look at [www.anysoldier.com](http://www.anysoldier.com) or any of its variations to find the story of a deployed troop, with a list of their needs, and their address. These service sites also have mailing guidelines.



*SMSgt Doug Shepard is one of our own who is currently deployed*

## FINANCIAL WISDOM REGARDING PAYDAY LOANS

When looking for ways to fund Christmas, quick cash in the form of a payday or title loan is never a sound financial idea. This falls under the "it's too good to be true" line. Congress has been looking into this and how the payday loan industry seems to target military personnel, so

One of the provisions of the provisions of the FY 2007 Military Authorization Act is to make payday and title lending to military personnel illegal.

This law aimed at creditors also makes it illegal to charge military personnel more than 36% interest. Fees, services charges, renewal

charges, credit insurance premiums, and any other product associated with the loan must be calculated into the interest rate.

The new law is a result of Department of Defense recommendations in a report given to Congress last August.



*TSgt Marcy Yerkey and her daughter, Rylee, get ready for the holidays!*

*Love the giver more than the Gift  
Brigham Young*

## ANGEL FOOD MINISTRIES

One way to stretch your food dollar every month is to participate in the Angel Food Ministries program.

This program is not religion affiliated, in spite of its name, and there is no income requirement for participating.

Basically there is a menu of

food for the month (about \$50 worth) that can be purchased for \$20 to \$25 and additional food for \$15 each package.

To find out if this program is in your area, go to [www.angelfoodministries.com](http://www.angelfoodministries.com) and search by state and then city.

Youngstown Air Reserve Station

**READINESS IS OUR MISSION!**



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## THE FINAL STORY: A CHRISTMAS SONG

*INSTRUCTIONS: Plug in the words listed on page two of the bulletin in order here:*

\_\_\_\_\_ roasting on an open fire.  
\_\_\_\_\_ nipping at your \_\_\_\_\_  
Yuletide \_\_\_\_\_ being sung by a choir  
And folks dressed up like \_\_\_\_\_  
Everybody knows a \_\_\_\_\_ and some mistletoe  
Help to make the \_\_\_\_\_ bright.  
Tiny tots with their \_\_\_\_\_ all aglow  
Will find it hard to \_\_\_\_\_ tonight.  
They know that \_\_\_\_\_ is on his way.  
He's loaded lots of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ on his sleigh.  
And every \_\_\_\_\_ is going to try  
To see if \_\_\_\_\_ really know how to fly.  
And so I'm offering this \_\_\_\_\_ phrase,  
For \_\_\_\_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_ to 92.  
Although it's been said many times, many ways,  
\_\_\_\_\_ Christmas to you!

*As we struggle with shopping lists and invitations, compounded by December's bad weather, it is good to be reminded that there are people in our lives who are worth this aggravation, and people to whom we are worth the same.*

*Donald E. Westlake*