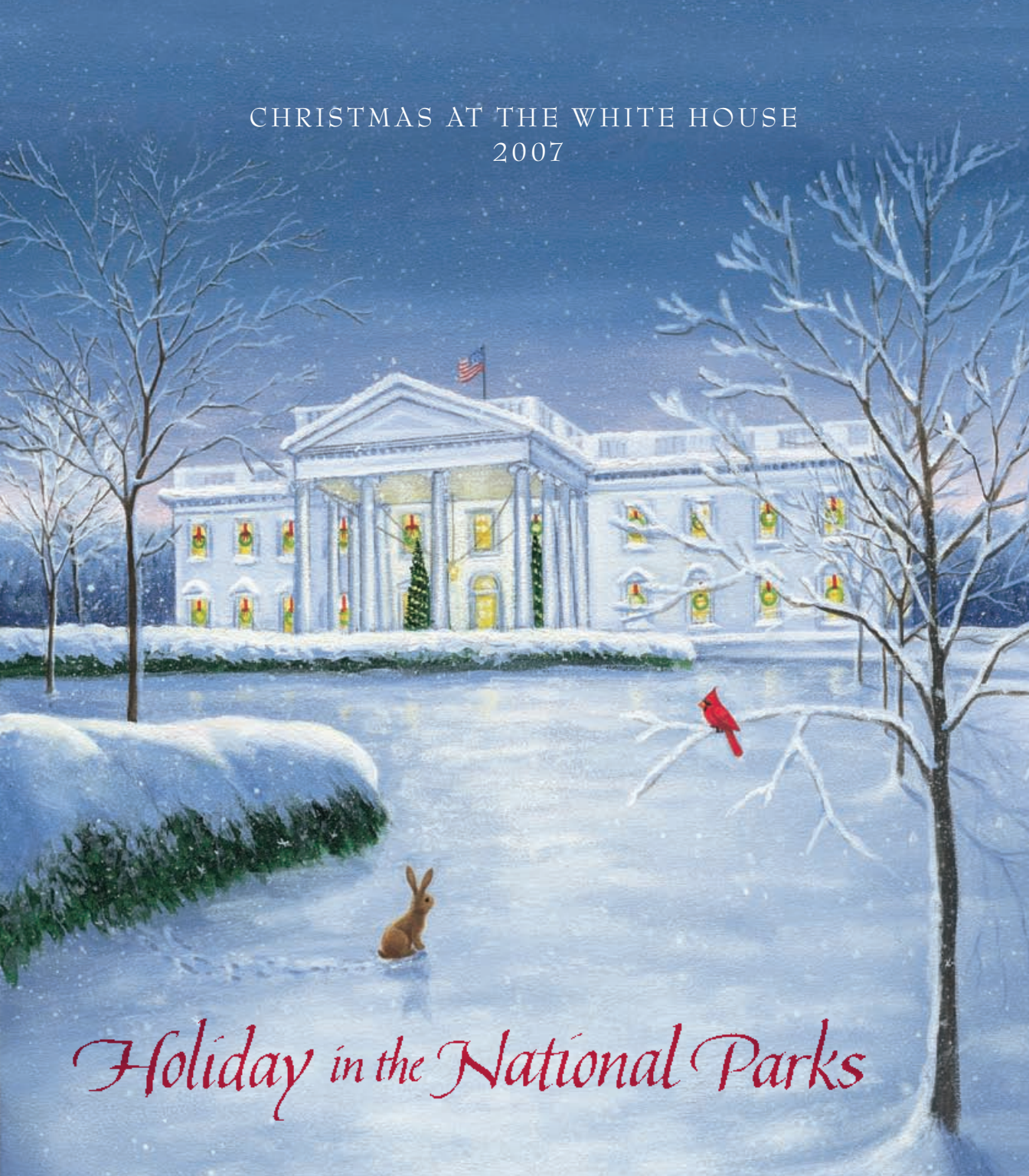


CHRISTMAS AT THE WHITE HOUSE
2007



Holiday in the National Parks



This Christmas season we give thanks for our nation's abundant blessings.

In the spirit of gratitude for our natural and historic treasures found from sea to shining sea, this year's theme highlights America's national parks. From breathtaking landscapes to important historical sites, generations have marveled at God's magnificent creation and cherished memories of visits to these special places.

Our deep appreciation goes to the White House Executive Residence staff, artists from across the country, and many volunteers. Their creativity and tireless efforts have made possible this year's holiday decorations representing our beloved parks.


We send our warm wishes for a happy holiday season full of the love of your family and friends.

Myra Burt *Laura Bush*



Franklin D. Roosevelt said, "There is nothing so American as our national parks." Rejoice in America's blessings as you explore our national parks this Christmas at the White House.

EAST WING



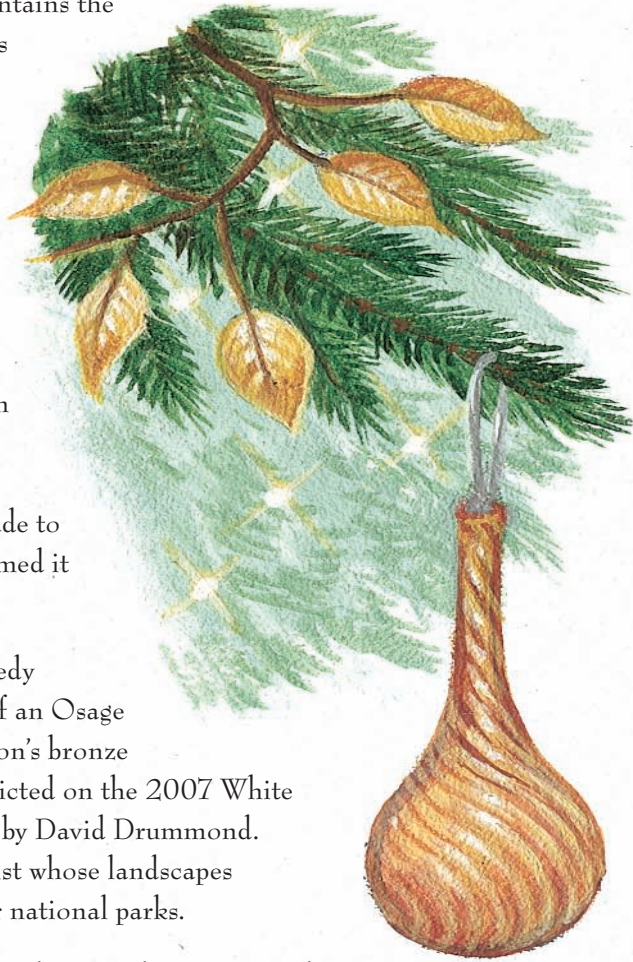
The Cape Hatteras Lighthouse greets you in the East Garden Room. Located on Cape Hatteras National Seashore in North Carolina, this beacon of light – also known as the “Big Barber Pole” – stands as the tallest lighthouse in the United States. The Lighthouse has guided generations of sailors along the Atlantic coastline to safety, just as its light is guiding you to the East Colonnade!

From the magnificent mountains of Grand Teton National Park in Wyoming to the history of Independence National Historical Park in Philadelphia, our nation is filled with treasures which many presidents and first ladies have enjoyed visiting through the years. Photographs of some of these trips are displayed in the frames along the East Colonnade wall.

The National Park Service maintains the White House grounds, as well as President's Park – the 82 acres of land which include statues, memorials and structures surrounding the White House. Presidential families have added to the rich and colorful history of the grounds by planting trees, creating gardens, and building recreation areas. Claudia “Lady Bird” Johnson redesigned the garden located along the East Colonnade to feature seasonal flowers and named it for Jacqueline Kennedy.

Nestled in the Jacqueline Kennedy Garden beneath the branches of an Osage orange tree is Sylvia Shaw Judson's bronze statue *Gardener* – the scene depicted on the 2007 White House Christmas card, painted by David Drummond. Mr. Drummond is a watercolorist whose landscapes represent the beauty seen at our national parks.

Look for Mr. Drummond's original watercolor painting of the 2007 Christmas card in the East Foyer, along with an original painting by wildlife artist Michael Glenn Monroe, whose illustrations decorate this holiday booklet. The East Foyer is filled with golden aspen trees like those you might see in West Virginia, Pennsylvania, or New Jersey while hiking the long Appalachian National Scenic Trail.

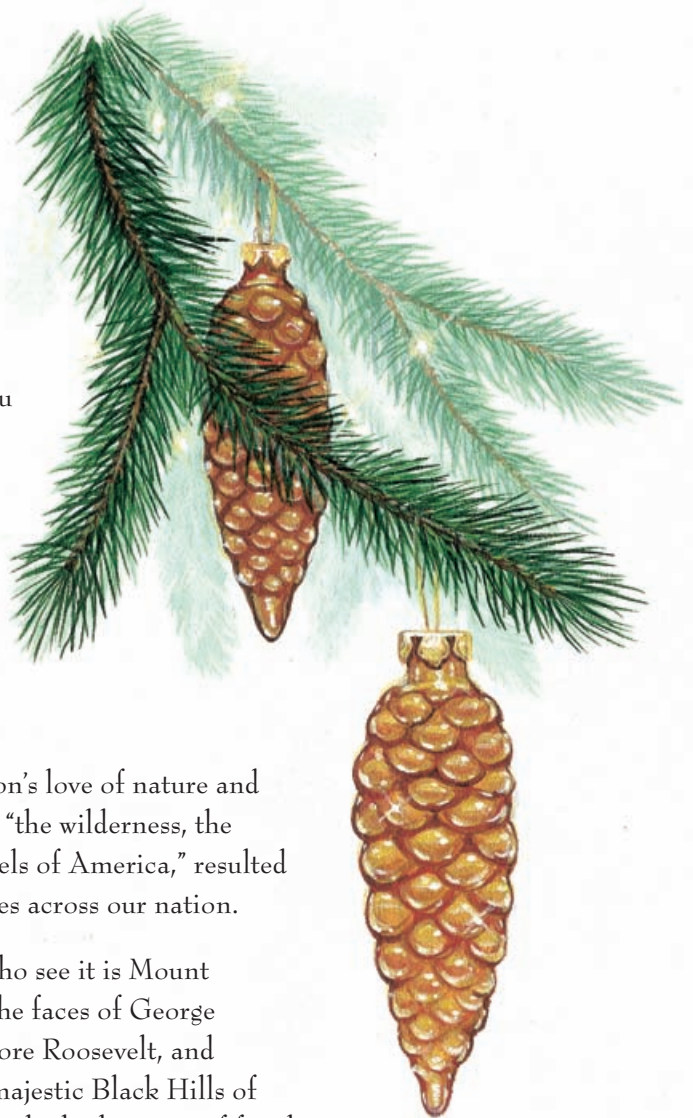


GROUND FLOOR CORRIDOR

Step back into history at Hubbell Trading Post National Historic Site! This Arizona landmark, opened by John Lorenzo Hubbell in 1878, is one of the oldest operating trading posts on the Navajo Nation. Hear the floorboards creak under your feet as you walk into the trading post and imagine the members of the Navajo Nation purchasing food and merchandise so many years ago.

The Vermeil Room is home to portraits of several first ladies, including that of Lady Bird Johnson located above the mantel adorned with pine cones and glass birds. Mrs. Johnson's love of nature and commitment to preserving, as she said, "the wilderness, the national parks, the shrines, and the jewels of America," resulted in more beautiful cities and countrysides across our nation.

Another source of inspiration for all who see it is Mount Rushmore National Memorial, where the faces of George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt, and Abraham Lincoln are carved into the majestic Black Hills of South Dakota. These four presidents embody the spirit of freedom "until the wind and the rain alone shall wear them away," as the memorial's sculptor Gutzon Borglum said. Below Barbara Bush's portrait sits a terra cotta replica of Mount Rushmore sculpted by Eric Baisas.





THE EAST ROOM

Gerald Ford was sworn into office as the 38th President of the United States in the East Room. President Ford worked at Yellowstone National Park in the summer of 1936 and is the only American President to have served as a park ranger in the National Park Service. He later recalled, "I remember as a ranger the first time I stood alone on Inspiration Point over at Canyon Station looking out over this beautiful land. I thought to myself how lucky I was that my parents' and grandparents' generation had the vision and the determination to save it for us." During his time in the White House, he worked to preserve and enhance our national parks, adding 19 new areas to the National Park System as well as enlarging other areas.

Gold birds and glass pine cones decorate the trees framing the crèche. Each holiday season since 1967, this marvelous nativity scene has had a place of honor in the East Room. Made primarily in Italy in the 18th century, the figures representing the story of the birth of Christ are made of terra cotta and carved wood and were given to the White House by Mrs. Charles W. Engelhard, Jr.

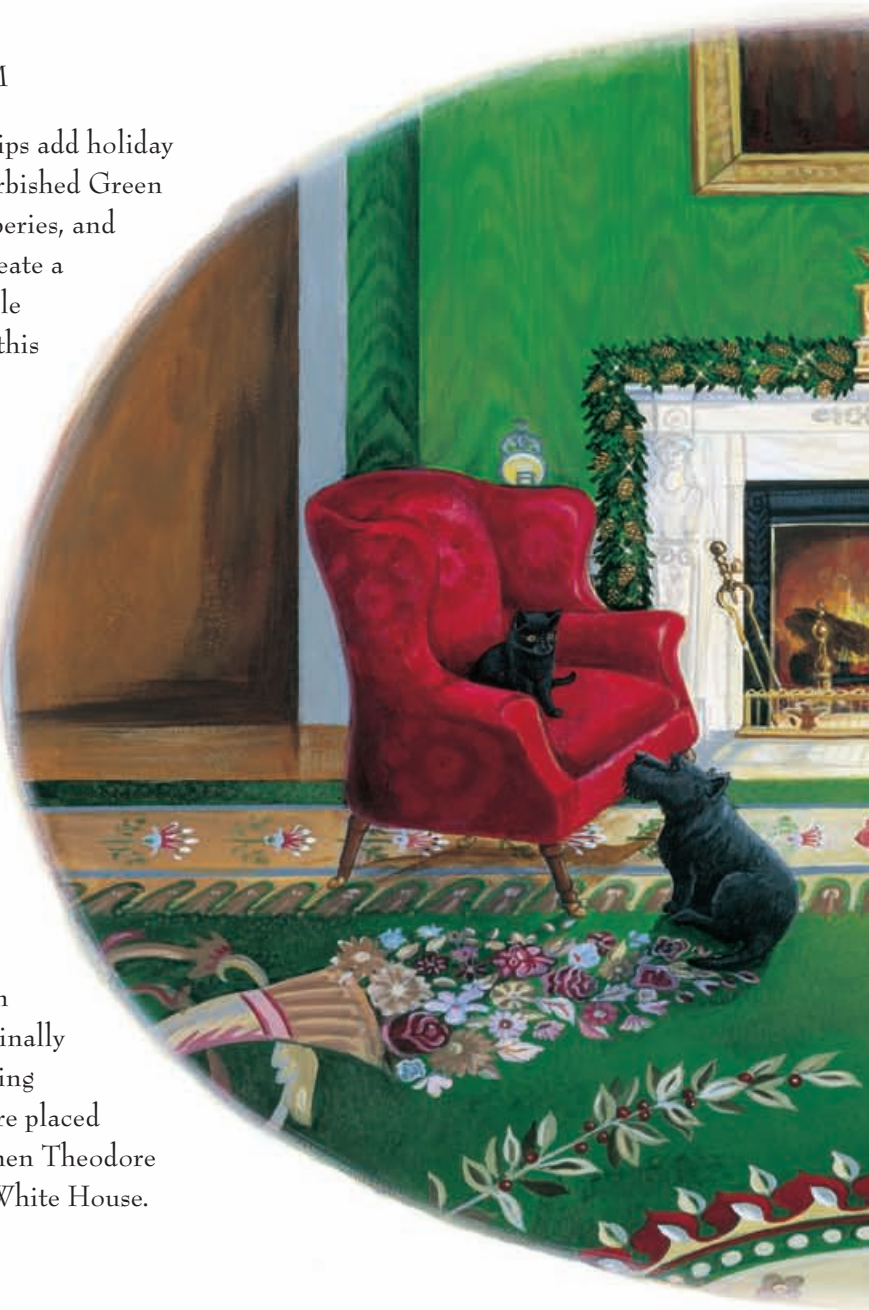
Garland intertwined with golden aspen leaves and glowing lights border the doors and the mirrors above the mantels in the East Room. Wreaths of mixed holiday greenery are suspended by gold ribbons in each window, and arrangements of white amaryllis in vermeil vases complement the gilded candelabras on the serving table.

THE GREEN ROOM

Poinsettias and bright tulips add holiday cheer to the recently refurbished Green Room. The new rug, draperies, and upholstery fabrics help create a cozy atmosphere for people – and animals – to relax this Christmas season.

Each side table is decorated with bird nests and eggs, which you might see while birding in Olympic National Park in Washington State. Many Americans enjoy birding in our national parks as well as in their own backyards.

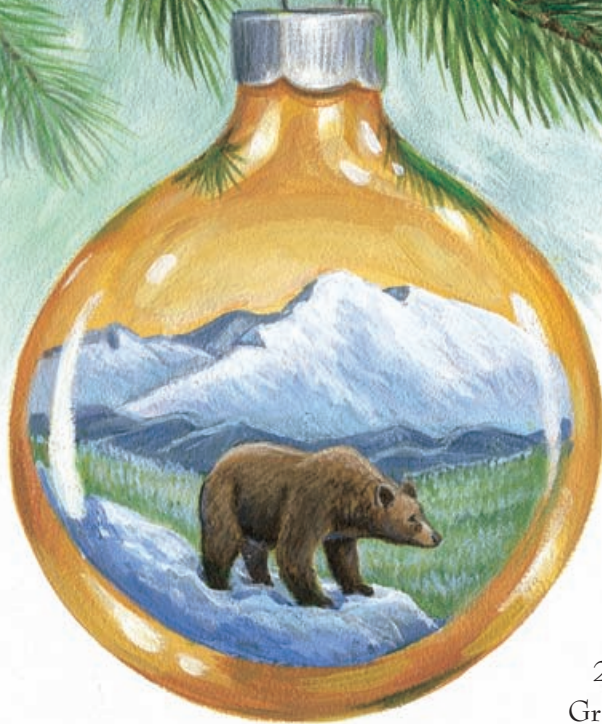
The garland-draped mantelpieces in the Green and Red Rooms were originally installed in the State Dining Room in 1819. They were placed in the parlors in 1902 when Theodore Roosevelt renovated the White House.





In addition to being an author, historian, soldier, governor, and president, Teddy Roosevelt was an outdoorsman who loved animals. During the Roosevelt family's years in the White House, the six Roosevelt children collected many pets, including a badger, bear, raccoon, cats, dogs, rats, guinea pigs, snakes, and a calico pony named Algonquin.

One of Teddy Roosevelt's most lasting and significant contributions as president was the preservation of our national heritage. He believed that "the old wilderness scenery and the old wilderness life are to be kept unspoiled for the benefit of our children's children." == As president, he set aside 230 million acres of land for federal protection so that future generations of Americans could enjoy these magnificent places.



THE BLUE ROOM

The official White House Christmas Tree is the holiday highlight of the Blue Room. This year's tree, an 18-foot Fraser fir from Laurel Springs, North Carolina, was presented to the White House by Joe Freeman and Linda Jones of Mistletoe Meadows Christmas Tree Farm. Mr. Freeman and Ms. Jones won this honor by being named the 2007 National Grand Champion Growers by the National Christmas Tree Association.

The ornaments represent the 391 national parks, memorials, seashores, historic sites, and monuments across our country and were decorated by artists selected by the sites. Each ornament reflects the diversity of our national landscapes and the many wonderful and unique treasures found from sea to shining sea!

THE RED ROOM

The Red Room showcases art depicting notable Americans and beautiful landscapes in the United States. Albert Bierstadt's painting *Rocky Mountain Landscape*, located on the east wall, captures the grandeur of Rocky Mountain National Park in Colorado.

With 200 campsites, 359 miles of hiking trails, breathtaking views, and a wide variety of animals and plants to see, opportunities for rich experiences and exciting adventures abound in the Rockies.

Children can also join the fun during a visit to a national park by becoming a Junior Ranger. Through learning more about the history, landscapes, and wildlife of our parks, children gain a deeper respect for our national parks as well as an understanding of their role in protecting our parks for generations to come. And some may even be inspired to grow up and become park rangers!

The mantel is adorned by garland filled with seashells you might find on the beaches of Gulf Islands National Seashore in Florida and Mississippi.



THE STATE DINING ROOM

George P. A. Healy's portrait of Abraham Lincoln, garlanded with long needle pine intertwined with gold aspen leaves, is the focus of the State Dining Room. President Lincoln was a man of character and intellect who preserved the Union and assured our future as a great nation. A number of national parks around the country honor the life of this extraordinary man, including the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., where the

Great Emancipator is immortalized in marble. Above his statue are inscribed the words: "In this temple, as in the hearts of the people for whom he saved the Union, the memory of Abraham Lincoln is enshrined forever."

Each sconce is adorned with mixed greenery, gold ribbons, and pine cones – which you'll find in all shapes and sizes in wooded areas such as Prince William Forest Park in Virginia. An embossed gold tablecloth with a sheer overlay covers the grand buffet table, and arrangements of white amaryllis enhance the gilded bronze plateau that President James Monroe bought from France in 1817.

The gingerbread house brings smiles to children's faces every holiday season. Months of work, pounds of chocolate, countless sheets of gingerbread, and mountains of sugar went into the creation of this enchanting and edible masterpiece. This year, the south view of the White House is depicted with historical and architectural accuracy by White House Executive Pastry Chef Bill Yosses and White House



Assistant Pastry Chef Chris Phillips. The Bush family pets - Barney, Miss Beazley, and Willie - celebrate the beauty of creation with moose, elk, raccoons and other friends from parks across the nation.

CROSS HALL AND ENTRANCE HALL

The Statue of Liberty National Monument, a gift to the United States from France over one hundred years ago, is located in New York Harbor – as well as on the Monroe pier table in the White House Entrance Hall. The first glimpse of America for millions of immigrants after a long voyage from Europe, Lady Liberty reminds all who see her of the wonderful independence Americans have cherished throughout the generations.

In November 1807, two grizzly bear cubs that Lieutenant Zebulon Pike found in western America welcomed visitors at the main entrance of Thomas Jefferson's White House. Both delighting and frightening people coming to see the President, the duo were a living testament to life in the west – a part of our country most Americans at the time could only imagine. Thomas Jefferson also turned the Entrance Hall into a western museum of sorts by showcasing antlers, snake skins, pelts, skeletons, and Indian artifacts found by Lewis and Clark during their expedition to the Pacific Ocean.

Today the vibrant colors and awe-inspiring scenes of the West are captured by Pennsylvania artist Adrian Martinez. His two breathtaking oil paintings depict the view from Hopi Point overlooking the Grand Canyon in Arizona, and a waterfall pouring into the Virgin River at Utah's Zion National Park. The paintings are perfectly situated in the niches of the Cross Hall amid sparkling snow-covered Christmas trees adorned with birds, butterflies, and other creatures from the great outdoors.



HAPPY HOLIDAYS

As you think of the many things you are thankful for this holiday season, may the many blessings of our nation fill your heart with joy. And in the coming years, celebrate America by visiting as many national parks as you can!



THE WHITE HOUSE VISITOR CENTER

During the holiday season, replicas of this year's White House decorations will be on display at the Visitor Center, located inside the north end of the Department of Commerce building, between 14th and 15th Streets at 1450 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW. The Center is open from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. every day except Thanksgiving, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day. You will find interesting exhibits, tourist information, and helpful park rangers to answer your questions.

IN APPRECIATION

The White House is grateful to Michael Glenn Monroe for creating the artwork for this program. Mr. Monroe has illustrated many children's books including *A Wish to be a Christmas Tree*, authored by his wife, Colleen Monroe. Mr. and Mrs. Monroe have three children, Matthew, Natalie, and John, and reside in Brighton, Michigan.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Learn more about our national parks by visiting the National Park Service website:

<http://www.nps.gov/>

Children can become a "Web Ranger" online:

<http://www.nps.gov/webrangers/>





M. Monko '07