



What a year! But at last it is fleeting!
 Now it is time for this Holiday greeting!
 Yes, 2013 has been "different", I must say,
 With joys and sorrows all along the way.



So to family and friends, we give a "shout out",
 As I relate how this year ... came about.
 God has been good ... oh have no fears,
 Though there was pain and also tears.

It began early, on New Years Eve, truth be told,
 I was off to Emergency with pain so bold!
 A 7mm kidney stone ... not moving, you see,
 So a stint was placed to give relief to me.



Then Mae's mom, Suggie, had a fall,
 She was off to emergency n' hospital halls;
 Returned with pneumonia and hospice care,
 The family came ... so they could be there.

She whispered "don't worry" and "don't cry for me",
 When she died on the 11th ... we knew she was free.
 She had planned everything ... said "I'll be above...
 place me by my husband ... in the town I loved".

Her time here in Wellington, a blessing for us;
 Still see the residents, and over them ... make a fuss;
 Old folks are just lonely; they love it ... when you care.
 We do return ... for the blessings that are there.

In February we were off! ... Our final continent!
 Down to Antarctica! One of the places we went.
 All went OK ... scenery, outstanding there!
 We've pictures ... if you are interested or care.



Spring time was "medical", maybe some surgery fast;
 Mae's insides "suspended"... with the hope it would last.
 But it took more procedures stretched on till October,
 To get an acceptable outcome, now hopefully ... over.

While medical insurance has been much in the news;
 Ours has been "working" or we'd be singing the blues!
 "Procedures" are expensive, I can honestly say,
 Outcomes "uncertain" ... so we continue to pray.

My dad, "Papa Rucker", turned 100 in July;
 We needed a celebration ... no need to say why;
 So pictures were gathered, memories written to relate;
 Off to Nashville, to see family and ... celebrate!



He enjoyed it very much; we said ... "live 'till 110"!
 He would be gone two months later ... we didn't know then.
 The sadness is real ... but the memories are too,
 He gave a great heritage ... for me ... and for you.



Maybe it's the mortality of our lives that we faced.
 We got out the "bucket list", and jumped back in the race;
 Off to the Danube and a river cruise we squeezed in;
 Added four more countries ... where we had not been.

We saw the Baltics ... recovering from war;
 Then Dracula's Castle ... and knocked on the door;
 Our dining experience was simply quite grand,
 At our table were 7 ladies ... and me the only man!

Then in November ... while "audacious" was said,
 From Seattle back to Atlanta ... what a "road trip" we had!
 The weather was perfect, the scenery sublime,
 We saw our own country ... and had a great time!



Mae lacks now three states, me only one;
 If we can make it to Alaska, that goal will be done;
 Europe may have some castles and the Danube so blue,
 but we have Yellowstone and Mt. Rushmore too!

About our children and grandchildren that we love?
 All well as of this date ... they played a part in all the above;
 They had their own trips and trials along the way;
 So a few of the details I will now say.



Brent and Stephanie in New Orleans did abide,
 Keith and Cindi in both planes and cars did arrive.
 Those family members were visited "a bunch",
 Glad to see the Cox family, I have a hunch.



But the news is Brent is promoted to Jacksonville;
 So a new destination will give all a thrill;
 The Saints are not moving, they have no such plans,
 So it's long-distance cheering ... from their #1 fans!



Ryan is still home and working some more,
 Got a job at Michaels ... that very crafty store;
 But his mom is certainly the "crafty" one
 Making fancy greeting cards ... just for fun!

Russ and Janet took off for a lovely vacation;
 It was Hawaii ... so still in our nation;
 Pictures of volcanoes, big surf and such,
 They report they loved it all ... very much!



Colin, besides visiting his cousin Brent,
 enjoyed Gulf Shores where he went;
 He tells us about "Megan" and their trip to see...
 Vandy beat Georgia ... shocking to you and me!



Now you are caught up for the Christmas season,
 No plans for travel ... and that sounds "pleasing";
 Hope you enjoy the holiday ... and all that it means,
 and have a very Happy ... Two Thousand Fourteen!