

*The Reason for the Season....  
...and everything else!*

I realize that this year's update is very different than prior years; however our desire is that it leaves you with a sense of happiness, hope and purpose.

We are remembering the life of a wonderful man this year, not his death. We are rejoicing in the legacy left behind by Richard Lavin and the path that he started for us to follow. Just like we are celebrating the day that Christ was born on earth and the possibility for each of us to be reconciled to God through the path that he left for us to follow.

As a side note; I am definitely not trying to compare my grandpa to Christ. However, I am so thankful for the fact that my grandpa loved Christ, followed Christ and is now with Christ. Grandpa knew what he was celebrating on Christmas morning.

I sincerely hope that everyone receiving this letter is celebrating the same joyous event that our family is this year...and knows why they are celebrating it!

Merry Christmas



Grandpa proudly holding his great, great grandson

Rejoice, for unto us a child is born  
and a beloved patriarch is welcomed  
into the heavens; and God said,  
this is good as well, this is good as well....



## The Lavin Family 2006 Christmas Update

First of all we would like to wish all of our friends and family a very merry Christmas and a blessed new year! With all that changes in our world we are so thankful for the relationships that endure through these changes. We hope you enjoy this update on our family and we earnestly thank you for being part of our experience.



On a sad note, my grandfather, Richard Lavin passed away this year and there is now a void in our lives that simply can not be filled. For those of you who did not know him, he was a beautiful man who possessed a daring sense of adventure and at the same time always acted with a soft loving spirit.

He excelled in sports, academics and leadership. He walked away from the pre-law program at Gonzaga university to fight for our country in World War II. He flew B29 Bombers and became a colonel in the Air Force. He was one of the first American pilots to actually fly over Japan and eventually ended up as a full-bird squadron commander. I didn't know him at that time, but I do know what a man has to have inside of himself in order to successfully do those things. I don't think I ever actually saw that side of my grandfather, but it has given me a deep sense of security knowing that was who he was, whether I could see it or not.



Instead, the man that I got to know as I grew up was my patient, soft-spoken, happy, loving and gentle grandfather. Always a leader, always having his opinion, always active, always following Jesus, always gentle (even when he was being firm) and always, always, always loving me and the rest of his family. My grandpa is truly my hero. He is my role model and next to Jesus he is the first person that I want to hang out with when I get to heaven, bar none!



However, as sad as it was to lose him for now, the way that he lived up until the hour he died is a constant source of happiness for all of us. Grandpa was 87 and running around like he was 50. On the day he died he drove out to Jacob's baseball game with Wendy, Madison and me. He told us about a very special lady at the senior center who he had been dancing with and was going to ask out to dinner (you gotta love that!). He held his great, great grandson in his lap and marveled at him for about 20 minutes and had lunch with all of us. We drove home, the Mariners won their baseball game, he had dinner with my mom. He went to bed very happy and then died very peacefully in his sleep. No sickness, no serious impairment of his mental capabilities and totally loved.

As for me and the family, I really have everything that a man could ask for. My beautiful wife Wendy loves me and adores our children. Breanna and Danny have two beautiful boys now Aidan Joseph Harvey and Evan Richard Harvey. Janelle is busying herself with school and work while she figures out a way to solve the world's racial injustices. Sarah is a junior in high school and spending more and more time with great activities like Young Life. Jacob is doing great at sports and in school; he recently won the Rising Star for Respect award at his school. Last, but not least, Madison is living every day to its fullest. She tries to squeeze 30 hours into 24 and then begs for just a couple more before finally succumbing to sleep....every night.



*All I can ask for more at this point is the grace to live like my grandpa, love like my grandpa and die like my grandpa. That would be a truly Wonderful Life.*