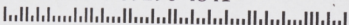




Lt Col Paul A Dongieux Ret

PO Box 4841

Jackson MS 39296-4841



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January

2002

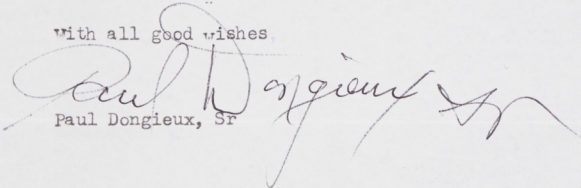
Mr Stewart Gentling
4801 Harley Avenue
Fort Worth, Texas 76107

Dear Stewart:

Attached are copies of two write ups in two different newspapers and I am glad that the military outfit that I belonged to had the pleasure of visiting your studio a couple of years ago. You were kind enough to give each of us a print of your work. The print that you gave me is of three green jays and an owl and I have it mounted and is hung in one of our bedrooms and I have a chance to look at it each day and I admire it very much.

And I am just as proud as my print of President Bush is of the painting that you did of him. It is a real work of art.

With all good wishes


Paul Dongieux, Sr

Bushes prepare to go quietly into 2002

By CAROLYN BARTA

Staff Writer

CRAWFORD, Texas — President Bush will ring in the New Year at his Central Texas ranch ... quietly.

"Probably going to bed early," he said, during his only meeting with reporters since he arrived last week at his Prairie Chapel Ranch.

The president and first lady Laura Bush are expected to skip a couple of New Year's Eve parties in this town of 705 people, including one featuring a Texas swing band with former "Fiddler of the Year" Johnny Gimble.

Mr. Bush hasn't been off the ranch since arriving the day after Christmas. He is, however, expected to surface this week during a

couple of day trips, including one to Austin for the unveiling of his gubernatorial portrait in the Capitol rotunda, followed by a reception.

The painting by Scott Gentling, a Fort Worth artist known for his portraits and for studies of Texas birds, will be hung on the first floor next to the portrait of former Gov. Ann Richards, the Democrat Mr. Bush defeated in 1992. It will join the gubernatorial portraits hung on four floors. To make way for the latest addition, Miriam "Ma" Ferguson's picture will be moved up a floor. The Bush portrait was completed last summer at the ranch.

Meanwhile, Mr. Bush is enjoying relative seclusion in his beloved native Texas setting, reading, exercising, working outdoors, and

spending time with old friends. His only visible guest has been Gen. Tommy Franks, commander of the war in Afghanistan, who briefed the president in person last week.

Press aide Scott McClellan said that although Mr. Bush receives daily briefings from his national security team and is engaging in some telephone diplomacy with foreign leaders, the president considers the visit an "opportunity to come home during the holidays and spend some time outdoors."

His activities have included planting a 10-inch live oak tree — a gift from senior staff — outside his ranch house. It's one of about 35 live oaks and cedar elms planted on the 1,600-acre ranch since the Bushes acquired the property in

1999.

As on other visits, Mr. Bush has jogged on the grounds and cleared brush.

"We're making great progress in one ... of the bottom areas that was heretofore relatively inaccessible," he said.

Mr. Bush said he has finished reading *Theodore Rex*, a book on Teddy Roosevelt by Edmund Morris, and has done a little fishing.

"They're not biting very much," he said. "But just the fact that I was able to fish was a nice treat."

Mr. Bush also said he has spent some "quality time" with the first lady. The Bush daughters, 20-year-old twins Barbara and Jenna, have not been seen. Mr. McClellan said they are not at the ranch.

THE NATION/IN WASHINGTON

Bush emotional as Texas honors him with portr

The Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas — A tear or two spilled down President Bush's cheek Friday as he saw his portrait unveiled in the Texas state Capitol and reflected on his "joyous six years" as governor.

"I'm going to take that can-do Texas spirit to Washington, for however long I'm there, and remind people that results are what matters," the president said.

On Monday, he closes a 12-day holiday at his central Texas ranch and returns to Washington to face

a politically fractious election year.

But Friday was for nostalgia as his gubernatorial portrait took its prominent place on the first floor of the Capitol rotunda, beside that of Democrat Ann Richards, the incumbent Bush unseated in 1994 after a bitterly fought race.

"It is amazing for me to think — when I step back and think — that this will be hanging here forever," Bush said. "I just hope Governor Richards doesn't mind being my neighbor for eternity."

First lady Laura Bush, who heli-

coptered with her husband to Austin for the brief ceremony and a private reception, helped Fort Worth artist Scott Gentling lift the black velvet shroud from his \$10,000 work.

Bush, who served as governor until the Election 2000 recount that made him president, shrugged sheepishly as the painting won applause. He then joked his way past the emotion that showed in his wet eyes.

He thanked a group of Texas pols, old pals and longtime advisers for

coming to "witness my hanging."

He thanked Gentling, for whom Bush sat on previous visits to his ranch, for "taking time to try to figure me out."

"Looks like you did me justice," Bush told the artist.

Against a smoke gray background, wearing a cheerful blue necktie, the painted Bush perches, with a casual slouch to his shoulders, on the corner of a desk.

It is Gentling's first Texas governor's portrait, and Bush said he was nervous at first when he

learned that Gentling came from a family famous for painting birds.

"Pretty tough old bird here to paint, wasn't I," Bush cracked.

The first lady said the portrait "shows the president with his warmth and his resolve. This is the way I've always seen him and as America and the world are coming to know him."

Gov. Rick Perry, who succeeded Bush, said the portrait would be a reminder of "a man who governed with civility, passion and tremendous character."



Bush portrait by Sco