

October 1, 2002

Ms. January Riecke
Post Office Box 2660
Landover Hills, Maryland
20784-2660

Dear Ms. Riecke:

Try as we have, we can not make the October 1st deadline for mailing the White House Christmas ornaments today. They will be mailed tomorrow October 2nd by overnight mail. I do not know if such an overnight delivery is possible for Landover Hills, Maryland.

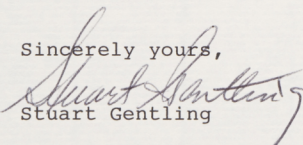
I do not know if a late arrival will compromise your security considerations. You might want to fax me new instructions for a late shipment. Since my brother and I were chosen to represent Texas for this project we will be sending both our ornaments together in one package. Along with this letter I am faxing you the appropriate information sheet sent us by the White House. For your convenience I am including the information for both of us on a single sheet, since that is the only one we received from you.

I apologize for any inconvenience our slight tardiness may cause you. Quite candidly, our schedules have been so full of unavoidable obligations this year that my brother Scott and I probably would have declined the honor of doing something for a White House Christmas at this time. Scott, however, was honored by the president in doing his portrait as governor of Texas for the capital rotunda, and we also published last year a major book of bird paintings with text titled "Of Birds and Texas." Mrs. Bush secretly attended our debut book signing at the Austin Art Museum last November.

Although the governor's office apparently chose us for the project, I have little doubt that it was at Mrs. Bush's suggestion, and since we will be representing the home state of President and Mrs. Bush, we did not want to let them down.

Again, if there are any problems requiring different shipping instructions, please let us know. Our home telephone number is: 817 - 738 4427. Our Fax is: 817 - 732 5448.

Sincerely yours,


Stuart Gentling