

The Knoxville Focus asked several people to share a Christmas Memory in one sentence. We asked all types of folks— office holders, community leaders and Focus Fans. We had such an overwhelming response that we cannot share each reply, but here are the ones we can fit.

Vivian Shippe: I remember all of us getting up at two in the morning on Christmas Day to have Family Christmas with our dad who had to work a 14-hour day at the post office.

Buzz Bawell: A couple of days before Christmas, my then teenage daughter and I gleaned extras from The Angel Tree, added food donated by Ramsey's Cafeteria, and helped a frail oncology patient at Children's Hospital and three generations of his family celebrate the holiday.

Marshall Stair: I remember Tom McAdams, my dad's law partner, giving us some sort of cow gift to remind my dad of his investment in a dairy farm which failed miserably.

Betty Mahan: I remember all four of us sisters sleeping in one bed like a slumber party on Christmas Eve.



pension lawsuit finally over?

By Mike Steely
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Chancellor John Weaver agreed with a settlement between Knox County and three outside attorneys who represented several deputies. The attorneys had asked the county commission to pay their fees for services delivered for seven retiring sheriff department employees but the commission decided to hire the firm of Arnett, Draper and Hagood to negotiate a settlement.

Originally the three attorneys had requested about \$190,000 and, later, \$150,000. The final settlement that was approved by Judge Weaver as presented by Attorney Rob Frost was for about \$97,000 with a mediator getting \$3,150.

Finance Director Chris Caldwell told The Focus that the settlement amount for the attorneys falls below the threshold of \$100,000. Which county department...