

SATURDAY MORNING LIVE FOR DECEMBER 23, 2017 ~  
“WE’RE LIVE – WE’RE ABOUT LIBERTY – WE’RE FOCUSED ON YOU!”

**Today’s Show:**

Host Kris Halterman has invited Mary Beth Teigrob to share holiday song and traditions.

**LIBERTY ALERTS:**

Christmas time is here...Hanukkah is over (12/12 – 12/20) Holidays are happening all around and 2018 is just around the corner.

Are You ready?

**COMMON CENTS:**

Just this week all Americans were given a federal tax cut on their earned income. Everyone within the low to middle-class income earners will see a substantial lowering of your federal income tax. This does not include what each wage earner will pay in Social Security or Medicare Taxes. This is only that which you paid to the Federal Government, known as your Withholding taxes.

Some low wage earners will likely not see a difference for several reasons. Mostly because they didn’t have any income withheld due to the number of exemptions they can take and the Earned Income Tax Credit for low income earners. The mid-wage or middle-class will see the largest cuts in federal withholding...those are the Forgotten Man (man, woman, and families) who have been left out of all the fiscal maneuvering for the past thirty-one years, since the 1986 Reagan tax cuts.

Merry Christmas to Everyone...especially you the forgotten people who make up the largest percentage of the American population...this is truly a cause for celebration. Are the tax changes as great as they could have been? No. But, they are a step in the right direction and it is up to all of us to continue to push for smaller government, expansion of civil and private property rights, and with that the means to keep more for the benefit of our family and our future.

Please take a snapshot of your Dec. and Jan. paychecks. Keep them and compare them to your Feb. 2018 paycheck(s) and read the line for Federal Withholding to know that you will be keeping more of your hard-earned wages to spend, save, or give away in whatever manner you choose.

Merry Christmas America ... we are on the road to Make-America-Great-Again ☺ through self-reliance, independence, liberty, and equal-justice under the laws of our U.S. Constitution.

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[From Forbes.com:](#)

**2018 Income Tax Brackets:** The number of brackets remained the same at seven. Rates overall, however, have come down. For individuals, these lower rates are scheduled to expire in 2025 unless Congress extends them.

The top rate will fall from 39.6% to 37%. The bottom rate remains at 10%, but it covers twice the amount of income compared to the previous brackets.

2018 Rate	Individuals	Married Filing Jointly
10%	Up to \$9,525	Up to \$19,050
12%	\$9,526 to \$38,700	\$1,905.00 plus 12% of wages between \$19,051 to \$77,400
22%	38,701 to \$82,500	\$8,907.00 plus 22% of wages between \$77,401 to \$165,000
24%	\$82,501 to \$157,500	\$28,179.00 plus 24% of wages between \$165,001 to \$315,000
32%	\$157,501 to \$200,000	\$64,179.00 plus 32% of wages between \$315,001 to \$400,000
35%	\$200,001 to \$500,000	\$91,379.00 plus 35% of wages between \$400,001 to \$600,000
37%	over \$500,000	\$161,379.00 plus 37% of wages over \$600,000

2017 Rate	Individuals	Married Filing Jointly
10%	Up to \$9,325	Up to \$18,650
15%	\$9,325 to \$37,950	\$1,865 plus 15% of wages between \$18,650 to \$75,900
25%	38,701 to \$91,900	\$10,452.50 plus 25% of wages between \$75,900 to \$153,100
28%	\$91,900 to \$191,650	\$29,752.50 plus 28% of wages between \$153,100 to \$233,350
33%	\$191,650 to \$416,700	\$52,222.50 plus 33% of wages between \$233,350 to \$416,700
35%	\$416,700 to \$418,400	\$112,728.00 plus 35% of wages between \$416,700 to \$470,700
39.6%	over \$418,400	\$131,628.00 plus 13.9% of wages over \$470,700

**2018 Standard Deduction Examples:** The standard deduction in 2018 as the law currently exists is \$13,000 for a couple filing jointly. That number will jump to \$24,000. For single filers it jumps from \$6,500 to \$12,000.

The personal exemption, currently at \$4,150 for 2018, would be repealed. That's the bad news. The good news the child tax credit gets a big boost.

It currently sits at \$1,000 and starts to phase out at \$110,000 in income for couples and \$75,000 in income for everybody else. Under the new law, the credit doubles to \$2,000, \$1,400 of which is a refundable tax credit. Further, it doesn't start to phase out until \$400,000 in income for couples and \$200,000 for singles.

**2018 Itemized Deductions:** Several key changes are coming for itemized deductions. State and local taxes can still be itemized, but they are now capped at \$10,000. This concession attempts to address the uproar from states that levy big taxes on their citizens.

Interest on mortgages for primary and secondary residences is still deductible. The limit, however, has come down from loans up to \$1 million to loans up to \$750,000.

Medical expenses in 2017 and 2018 are deductible to the extent they exceed 7.5% of income (down from 10%).

[More information on 2018 taxes from Doughroller.net.](#)

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### Christmas Traditions:

#### Favorite Traditional songs:

[Angels We Have Heard on High](#)

[Away in a Manger](#)

[Carole of the Bells](#)

[Do You Hear What I Hear?](#)

[The First Noel](#)

[Go Tell It on the Mountain](#)

[God Rest You Merry Gentlemen](#)

[Hark the Herald Angels Sing](#)

[The Holly and the Ivy](#)

[I Came Upon the Midnight Clear](#)

[Joy to the World](#)

[Little Donkey](#)

[The Little Drummer Boy](#)

[O Come, All Ye Faithful](#)

[O Holy Night](#)

[We Three Kings of Orient Are](#)

[What Child is This?](#)

### Christmas Song Puzzle

### Traditional Christmas food

[Eggnog](#)

[Cranberry Cocktail Meatballs](#)

[Stuffed Mushrooms](#)

[Fried Camembert \(soft cheese\) with Cranberry Sauce](#)

[Roasted Goose](#)

[Honey Glazed Ham](#)

[Herb Roasted Turkey](#)

[Beef Wellington](#)

[Pheasant](#)

[Rack of Lamb](#)

[Prime Rib](#)

[Butternut Squash & Sage](#)

[Butter Rolls](#)

[Yorkshire Pudding](#)

[Wild Rice & Cranberries](#)

[Brussels Sprouts](#)

[Chestnut Stuffing](#)

[English Trifle](#)

[Christmas Pudding](#)

[Christmas Strudel](#)

[White Christmas Dream](#) (vodka, amaretto, and heavy cream)

### My Favorites:

- Clam dip & Chips
- Hot bean dip
- Sliced meat and cheese platter
- Fruit salad – with or without whipping cream
- Oyster casserole
- Spiral ham
- Croissants
- Pumpkin and Pecan Pie
- All those wonderfully shared Christmas cookies

### Traditional meals

- Switzerland – Fondue Chinoise (thin cuts meat dipped into boiling broth)
- Netherlands – Gourmetten (small meats & veggies cooked on a tabletop hotplate)
- Mexico – Pozole (hominy and meat, topped with condiments: cabbage, chili peppers, avocado, lime)
- Guatemala – Tamales (red or black bean) *Many of our local Mexican restaurants are having a special on tamales – check it out*
- Slovakia – Sauerkraut Soup, Eve with mushrooms, Day with pork added
- Botswana – Mommagen (rice, salad, and fried chicken)
- Japan – Kentucky Fried Chicken ☺

### Traditions around the World

- [Giant Lantern Festival](#) – Philippines
- [Gävle Goat](#) – Sweden
- Krampus – Austria
- Kentucky Fried Chicken – Japan
- The Yule Lads – Iceland
- Saint Nicholas’ Day – Germany
- Hide Your Broom – Norway
- Lighting of the Hanukkah Menorah – Washington DC
- Roller skating to church – Venezuela
- Day of Little Candles – Columbia
- [Cavalcade of Lights](#) - Toronto

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