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December 05, 2025

Dear Friend,

As the year draws to a close, the Museum's log cabins stand aglow with candlelight and fresh cedar garland—reminders of the enduring beauty of Appalachian craftsmanship. During this season of gratitude, we reflect on all that we've been able to accomplish through your generosity and the incredible ways your support continues to bring Appalachian history to life.

In 2025, your support enabled us to:

- Welcome an estimated 25,000 touring visitors to the Museum.
- Educate and entertain 6,500 young learners at five student-focused special event days, along with nearly 1,000 more through field trips and outdoor classroom experiences.
- Celebrate Pete DeBusk at our *Heroes of Southern Appalachia* awards ceremony.
- Install the Senate Wall exhibit—featuring artifacts curated by John Rice Irwin for Senator Lamar Alexander's Washington office—and debuted the WNOX Mid-Day Merry-Go-Round exhibit with rare 1938 archival audio.
- Replace aging water lines—ensuring reliable water access for our animals, gardens, visitor services, and historic buildings.

Now, we turn our focus to one of the Museum's most significant preservation priorities: restoring the iconic Cantilever Barn. This rare Appalachian structure—believed to be one of the oldest surviving barns of its kind—embodies the ingenuity, resourcefulness, and craftsmanship that define our region. After generations of weather and wear, the barn now requires essential roof, foundation, and structural repairs to ensure its long-term stability.

By preserving the Cantilever Barn, we are not only protecting an architectural treasure—we are safeguarding the stories, skills, and resilience of the people who shaped Southern Appalachia. **We respectfully ask that you consider a year-end contribution to support this vital restoration effort.** Together, we can ensure that this remarkable landmark continues to inspire and educate future generations.

If you prefer to give online, you can make a secure year-end gift at www.museumofappalachia.org/donate.

With Sincerest Thanks,

Gary R. Wade
Chairman, Board of Directors

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