



Chris Danou's Capitol Report
Goodbye 2015 and Hello 2016

Another year is in the books and 2016 is upon us. For many people, this is a time to reflect, set new goals or come up with a new year's resolution to help us reach some kind of personal or professional objective. When I think of celebrating the New Year I can't help but think of the famous song, "Auld Lang Syne" and officially saying goodbye to one year and hello to another.

Like so many of you, I've heard the song "Auld Lang Syne" countless times and I've tried singing along at parties or different gatherings with family and friends. As my wife and I were making plans and thinking about the New Year, this song came to mind and I realized I didn't know that much about it other than maybe a few lines. I've known of that song for as long as I can remember and my curiosity caused me to do some research about the song and its origins.

Auld lang syne isn't a common phrase in our dialogue so I first looked into what it means. "Auld lang syne" is actually a Scottish phrase that has been translated to mean "old long since" or "long long ago", "days gone by" or "old times". It was originally written as a poem by Robert Burns in 1788 and set to the tune of a traditional Scottish folk song called "Roud #6294". Fast forward to the current time and it's now considered to be the traditional use of bidding farewell to the old year at the stroke of midnight. The song can also be heard at funerals, graduations, and as a farewell or ending to other occasions.

The song spread from Scotland to the other British Isles as well as other English speaking countries and has even become a New Year's tradition in non-English speaking countries. There are many recorded versions by all kinds of artists from over the years and I'm sure you've heard several of them. Indeed, "Auld Lang Syne" has truly become a part of the New Year celebration and helps us come together to say goodbye to the year and hello to a new one.

Ring in the New Year is a great time to makes plans for the future so I hope you have the chance to reflect on the past year and think about the new one. I encourage everyone to set some kind of a goal to work toward and wish you the best of luck moving forward. I hope you have a safe and fun time celebrating the New Year and wish you good luck in 2016!

