



## **2009 Capitol Christmas Lighting**

**Gov. Jan Brewer**  
**Tuesday, December 8, 2009**

- The tree we are about to light this evening sprouted in Arizona's Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest, in 1884.
- Grover Cleveland was president then – and construction on the Washington Monument was about to be completed.
- As you can see, in its 125 years, it grew proudly, straight and tall.
- Like America, herself.
- Its branches now bear ornaments and, as the National Christmas tree, it is about to be aglow with thousands of lights, standing even more proudly -- America's symbol of Christmas and the holidays we all share.
- This special season is about giving and caring, and so on behalf of all the citizens of Arizona, I am here to share our manifest blessings as this magnificent blue spruce now belongs to the Nation.
- I see the lights that will soon brighten the night representing our service men and women and their families. Their service is their gift to us.

- It is their sacrifice which guarantees our freedom and makes possible the dream we all share -- peace on earth, goodwill toward all.
- Merry Christmas, happy holidays, and may we always remember God's great gift to us.
- Thank you.