

## **BELATED BIRTHDAY BLESSING**

The bustling in December  
makes many people wait  
till they at last remember  
they've missed a special date.  
If only not so hurried,  
they'd send to celebrate  
their birthday wish "be-earlied"  
instead of being late!

So, though I missed your party,  
I'll blame it not on fate:  
such poetry comes tardy,  
when I procrastinate.  
This humble card's confessing  
my hope you'll not equate  
belated birthday blessing  
with lack of care, old mate!

— *David L. Hatton, 12/18/2018*