



**Missouri Supplement**  
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## Thank You for All That You Do!

### GRAND COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Greetings Sir Knights,

For this issue I have asked Sir Knight Abernathy, our Grand Standard Bearer, to provide a message. So sit back and enjoy the article from Dennis.

### Fraternity, Family and Youth!

Sir Knight K. Trent Moreland, Grand Commander

### A MESSAGE FROM THE GRAND STANDARD BEARER

The first documented Thanksgiving was held in 1619. It was celebrated by 38 English settlers in Virginia for a safe voyage. They feasted and the meal was followed by a religious ceremony. Those settlers declared it to be an annual event. The pilgrims in 1621 held their Thanksgiving to celebrate the close of a successful season. Once again, they had a huge feast followed by a religious ceremony.

Thanksgiving was celebrated at different times of the year for many different events. It almost always consisted of a feast followed by a religious ceremony. These events were almost always proclaimed by church leaders, then in later years by both church leaders and civic leaders. Many Royal Governors declared Thanksgiving days for events favorable to their cause.

President George Washington was the first person to declare a nationwide Thanksgiving day on 26 November in 1789. This was a specific day to recognize the many favors bestowed on America by Almighty God. The specific November date changed from year to year until President Abraham Lincoln declared it to be celebrated on the last Thursday in November. The southern states, not recognizing Lincoln's authority, continued to celebrate Thanksgiving at their discretion.

It wasn't until December of 1941 that the fourth Thursday in November was declared by President Franklin D. Roosevelt and Congress.

Today we still celebrate Thanksgiving on the fourth Thursday in November, but so much has changed, in my opinion. We still have a big feast, a meat platter and all of the amenities, with family and friends, but the most important part has been omitted.

A lot of us sit and watch a football game or socialize with friends and family. The religious ceremony where we give thanks to God for all of our blessings is

being omitted. We, as Christian Knights Templar, should be doing this on a daily basis, not on one day a year. We should thank God for the privilege of serving HIM, our families, our communities, and each other. We should celebrate Thanksgiving by "GIVING THANKS."

Sir Knight Dennis A. Abernathy, Grand Standard Bearer

### A THANKSGIVING MESSAGE FROM THE HOSPITALER COMMITTEE

The fourth Thursday of November is set aside as a day for thanksgiving to express our thanks to God. In America, it was George Washington in 1789 that made a public proclamation saying "it is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey His will, be grateful for His benefits, and humbly to implore His protection and favors." He set the first day of thanks to be on November 26, 1789 which was a Thursday.

Today, Thanksgiving Day has become commercialized, more and more stores are opening their doors to get a jump on the Black Friday madness. Couple that with NFL football games in the afternoon and Thanksgiving is just another day in a long holiday weekend.

As Knights Templar, we should set an example for our family and friends. We should use this day as it was intended – as a special day to thank our Creator for all that He has provided for us. We should give thanks to Jesus who showed us the way to live our lives while He was on earth. He died on the cross for our salvation. We should also give thanks for the blessings of our family, friends, and fraters that make our lives meaningful.

The Hospitaler Committee wishes each of you a happy and safe Thanksgiving.

Sir Knight Charles E. Cooper, Hospitaler Committee Chairman

### JUST SAY THANKS!

You may be familiar with the writings of one of our more celebrated Brethren – Joseph Rudyard Kipling. He was born in Bombay, India on December 30, 1865. His father, John Lockwood Kipling, was a Freemason. In 1885, at the age of only twenty years and six months, Kipling became a Freemason by dispensation in the Lodge of Hope and Perseverance, No. 782, English Constitution in Lahore, Punjab, India. Interestingly, he was quickly placed in the office of Secretary of the Lodge.

He is known for writing "Captains Courageous," "The Jungle Book," and "The Second Jungle Book." At one time Kipling's reputation was worldwide. His poems and prose were so popular that at one time he was getting ten shillings per word. If you convert an 1800's British shilling into today's US dollars, then 10 shillings would be about \$370.

A group of college students heard about Kipling's earnings and for some reason took exception. As a joke they sent him ten shillings and asked for his best word. Kipling politely answered their request with "Thanks."