



The Season of Gratitude and Gifts

For me, Veterans Day in November marks the start of the holiday season filled with gratitude and gifts. It's a season in which we pause to reflect on our many blessings, and in the case of our veterans, we set aside time to show our gratitude for the huge debt owed to those who wear or have worn the military uniform of the United States of America. We are reminded to never take for granted that we enjoy living in the greatest country in the world because of the price they paid for our freedom.

Our country was born from the struggle of the Colonists who sought a better life in what eventually became the United States of America. Their celebration of the first successful harvest in the new world is honored today by our observance of Thanksgiving; a day in which we take time to count our personal blessings and enjoy the fruits of living in a prosperous country. The spirit of the pilgrims and subsequently our founding fathers, lives on today in our ability to passionately and freely allow our voices to be heard and enjoy the fruits of our labors.

Our founders embraced the value in differing opinions and ideologies, and they insightfully ensured ongoing change, cooperation and compromise which begins by each person's right to cast a ballot. The ability to have our voices heard and our opinions known is one of the greatest benefits of living in a free country.

Professionally, I want to express my gratitude to the citizens of Pasco County for the privilege of another year in service to the public, and personally, I want to recognize and thank my work family for their support and contribution to the success of elections in Pasco County. With 2019 ending, I look forward to celebrating what I believe to be the greatest gift of all.

The new year brings the start of a very busy election season, and I look forward to a year in which collectively, the powerful voices of the voters will be heard - a power afforded us by those who were brave enough to pursue their ideals and those who have bravely defended it with their lives. Let us never take our gift of freedom lightly or for granted, and let it begin with a peaceful, reflective celebration in the upcoming season of gratitude and gifts.

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