

The original documents are located in Box 3, folder “11/11/74 - Thanksgiving Day Proclamation” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THANKSGIVING DAY PROCLAMATION

NOVEMBER 11, 1974

AMERICA AND THE WORLD HAVE CHANGED ENORMOUSLY
SINCE THE FIRST THANKSGIVING 353 YEARS AGO. FROM A TINY
COASTAL ENCLAVE ON AN UNTAMED CONTINENT, WE HAVE GROWN
INTO THE MIGHTIEST, FREEST NATION IN HUMAN HISTORY.

A CIVILIZATION WHOSE FARTHEST REACH WAS ONCE THE EARTH'S
UNCHARTED SEAS HAS NOW ~~REVEALED~~ **PROBED** THE SECRETS OF OUTER SPACE.

BUT THE FUNDAMENTAL MEANING OF THANKSGIVING ~~IS~~

REMAINS THE SAME. IT IS A TIME WHEN THE DIFFERENCES OF A

DIVERSE PEOPLE ARE FORGOTTEN AND ALL AMERICANS JOIN IN GIVING

THANKS TO GOD FOR THE BLESSINGS WE SHARE -- THE BLESSINGS OF

FREEDOM, OPPORTUNITY AND ABUNDANCE THAT MAKE AMERICA ~~SO~~ UNIQUE.

THIS YEAR, IN THE MIDST OF PLENTY, WE STILL FACE SERIOUS PROBLEMS AND MASSIVE CHALLENGES. IN GIVING THANKS FOR THE MANY THINGS WE HOLD DEAR, LET US ALSO PRAY FOR THE COURAGE, RESOURCEFULNESS AND SENSE OF PURPOSE WE WILL NEED TO CONTINUE AMERICA'S SAGA OF PROGRESS, AND TO BE WORTHY HEIRS OF THE PILGRIM SPIRIT. MAY WE, TOO, FIND THE STRENGTH AND VISION TO LEAVE BEHIND US A BETTER WORLD, AND AN EXAMPLE THAT WILL INSPIRE FUTURE GENERATIONS TO NEW ACHIEVEMENTS.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GERALD R. FORD, PRESIDENT OF
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 6103
OF TITLE 5 OF THE UNITED STATES CODE, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 1974, AS A DAY OF NATIONAL THANKSGIVING.

I CALL UPON ALL AMERICANS TO GATHER TOGETHER IN HOMES
AND PLACES OF WORSHIP ON THIS DATE, TO JOIN IN OFFERING GRATITUDE
FOR THE COUNTLESS BLESSINGS OUR PEOPLE ENJOY, AND TO SHARE WITH
THE ELDERLY AND THE UNFORTUNATE THIS SPECIAL DAY THAT BRINGS US
ALL CLOSER TOGETHER.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I HAVE HEREUNTO SET MY HAND

THIS ELEVENTH DAY OF NOVEMBER, IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD

NINETEEN HUNDRED SEVENTY-FOUR, AND OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA THE ONE HUNDRED NINETY-NINTH.

(SIGNED)

GERALD R. FORD

GENTLEMEN, I AM PLEASED TO HELP INAUGURATE THE
PRESIDENTIAL COLLECTION OF THANKSGIVING PROCLAMATIONS --
AND PRESENT YOU WITH THIS ORIGINAL COPY FOR DISPLAY IN THE
HALL OF THANKSGIVING IN THANKS-GIVING SQUARE IN DALLAS.
THIS COLLECTION WILL CONSTITUTE A UNIQUE AND CONTINUOUS HISTORICAL
RECORD.

SINCE THE EARLIEST DAYS, WHEN GENERAL WASHINGTON HALTED HIS TROOPS TO ISSUE A THANKSGIVING PROCLAMATION BEFORE WINTERING AT VALLEY FORGE, THESE DOCUMENTS HAVE MIRRORED THE TRIALS AND TRIUMPHS OF A GROWING NATION.

THE STORY THAT THESE DOCUMENTS TELL IS THE STORY OF THE AMERICAN SPIRIT.

ON THIS THANKSGIVING, JUST AS WE HAVE ON PAST
THANKSGIVINGS, WE FACE SERIOUS PROBLEMS. BUT THE AMERICAN
SPIRIT TODAY IS JUST AS EQUAL TO THOSE PROBLEMS AS IT WAS IN
THE DAYS OF OUR PILGRIM FOREFATHERS.

I AM CONFIDENT THAT FUTURE PROCLAMATIONS WILL RECORD
THAT WE HAVE CONQUERED THOSE PROBLEMS. AND I AM CONFIDENT
THAT THEY WILL RECORD THAT THE BLESSINGS FOR WHICH WE GIVE THANKS
HAVE CONTINUED TO MULTIPLY.

GENTLEMEN, I CONGRATULATE YOU ON THE CONCEPTION AND
CREATION OF THANKS - GIVING SQUARE. THE PEOPLE OF TEXAS,
THE PEOPLE OF ALL OUR STATES, AND FOREIGN VISITORS TO THESE SHORES
WILL BE THE RICHER FOR IT.

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