

Scott's Thoughts

November 16, 2025



“The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.” (Numbers 6:24–26, ESV)

Veterans Day has passed, and everyone is getting ready for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Ava and I are looking forward to spending time together and enjoying our family. This year, all three of our daughters are scheduled to be in Newkirk as well as our two grandchildren, and two sons-in-law. (Our oldest, Yvonne, married Rob on the sixth day of this month.) We are so excited to have all of them around us. Thanksgiving Day will be one of the biggest meals we will enjoy this year. We will have all the fixings: mashed potatoes, sweet potato casserole, green bean casserole, dressing, pumpkin pie, cranberry salad, and of course deep-fried turkey. We will most likely watch a football game or two.

November is one of the busiest months of the year. With Veterans Day and Thanksgiving just two weeks apart, Veterans Day is the easiest. I just changed my picture on Facebook from the picture of Ava and me to the picture of me in uniform. I have always liked the Navy uniform. It stands out from the other branches of service. (I still have my Dress Blues. I don't think I can fit into them anymore, but they bring back memories every time I look at them.)

Thanksgiving seems to fit well with Veterans Day. One focuses on thanking the men and women who have spent time serving our country and the other is spent thanking our Creator for this great land He has allowed us to live in. Both recognize that each of us is

dependent on those around us. Without them we would not be able to enjoy all the blessings that “The United States of America” offers its citizens. We enjoy a standard of living that is unknown in much of the world.

We do not have to travel far to encounter those who exist at a much lower level of comfort. Dirt floors and outdoor plumbing are still the standard in many parts of the world. I have traveled enough to see and experience some of those conditions and learned quickly never to complain. When someone is sharing the best they have, be thankful and receive it like it was the greatest anyone could ever offer, because they most likely exceeded their monthly budget to provide it.

We live in a time where we tend to be critical of our country. But instead of criticizing this Thanksgiving, let us take time to recognize the multitude of blessings we enjoy because God has blessed us beyond measure.

“A Song of Ascents. I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth. He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber. Behold, he who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade on your right hand. The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night. The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life. The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore.” (Psalm 121, ESV) “For all things are for your sakes, that the abundant grace might through the thanksgiving of many redound to the glory of God.” (II Corinthians 4:15 ESV)

Thanks for listening and keep on shining

—Scott