



TREIG E. PRONSCHINSKE

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 92nd ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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Contact: Rep. Treig E. Pronschinske
(608) 266-7015

Giving Thanks and Expressing Gratitude

I want to wish you all a Happy Thanksgiving! On the last Thursday of November, friends and families across the United States gather around and give thanks for all of the wonderful things in their lives from that year. Celebrating Thanksgiving dates all the way back to when many of our ancestors, who were Pilgrims, had a great feast after their first harvest.

Many of us have long standing traditions such as playing cards, baking our favorite pies or just being around our friends, families, and community members spending the day together cooking a turkey. In fact, there will be about 46 million turkeys eaten for Thanksgiving this year.

Did you know that Thanksgiving was officially named after President Abraham Lincoln issued a presidential proclamation on October 3rd in 1863? Through the presidential proclamation, President Lincoln referred to the widows, orphans, and the many people suffering through the Civil War as a way to give thanks for all of those individuals.

While Thanksgiving brings delicious food and great fun, it is equally as important to remember that we should be thankful and use this day as an opportunity to reflect on how we can better help those around us. As an example, I recently attended an adoption and foster care town hall to listen to concerns of many people. One theme that regularly comes up is the lack of available homes and families to take in the many children waiting to be loved. If your household is able to take in a child please do. If you are unable to, there are many things in the community that can be done to help improve the lives of others. Consider donating your unopened cans and food from your meal to a local shelter, or even perhaps while you are doing your holiday shopping on Friday to pick up one more gift for the family down the street who may not have what you have.

As we are giving thanks, it is important to think of all of those who are not fortunate to spend time with their friends and families including our many brave men and women overseas.

From my family to yours, I would like to wish you a Happy Thanksgiving and Happy Hunting!

As always, feel free to contact my office with questions, comments, or concerns.

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