

COUNTING OUR BLESSINGS

This wonderful fall season offers one of the most important holidays of the year, Thanksgiving. Frequently the pace of life clutters our down time and we often forget to pause and remember the blessings of living in the United States of America and more specifically Missouri. I trust that this article will inspire you to consider the meaning of Thanksgiving as you make preparations for this year's annual celebration.

A quick "short" list reveals how blessed we truly are today:

- We can live and worship wherever we choose
- We can aspire to be whatever we want to be
- Our economic system is the most successful in the world
- We have the opportunity to vote and participate in our Government
- Education is universal
- We have the best critical health care in the world
- We can travel easily and safely throughout the country
- Anyone can start his or her own business
- The conveniences of electricity and running water simplify our lives
- The beauty of Missouri's seasons colors our days and
- We have the opportunity to support humanitarian and spiritual needs of our choosing

Just to name a few.

Giving thanks is a reminder of the source of our blessings. Martin Luther spoke of the "blessings that at times come to us through our labors and at times without our labors, but never because of our labors; for God always gives them because of his undeserved mercy."

The great leaders who set aside this day of Thanksgiving in 1676 clearly understood this and God truly blessed the United States of America. Please join me in setting aside November 25th, 2004, to count our blessings and give Thanksgiving the appropriate place it deserves.

If you have questions or comments about this or any other issue, please feel free to contact me at 573-751-8793, or by email at delbertscott@senate.state.mo.us.