



A Time to be Thankful

JEFFERSON CITY — In this space, I usually get to talk about the things we do in the legislature and how those things affect your lives. But this week, I'd like to focus on Thanksgiving Day and what we are thankful for.

First of all, I'm thankful for my family. You'll find no luckier man on earth than the one who has a loving and caring wife and happy healthy children. My wife, Natalie, has stood by me in good times and in bad, and I could not have found another better to share my life with. My daughter Noelle and son Scottie are the apples of our eyes, and I thank God every day for blessing us with them.

I'm thankful for the men and women of this country's armed forces, and in particular, the Missouri National Guard, who have raised their hands and volunteered to give up time with their families so we can all be free. We cannot forget the sacrifices they have made in defense of our freedoms. We cannot forget those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for their country. Please remember our brave soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines who are far from home this Thanksgiving Day, making sure we continue to be free.

I'm thankful to live and work in the 2nd Senatorial District of Eastern Missouri. The people of St. Charles and Lincoln counties are among the finest in the world, showing hard work and resiliency to overcome whatever obstacles are in their way. From the farm fields in the northern part of my district to the shops and industries in the suburban areas, I've been proud to represent those who know what it means to make an honest dollar for an honest day's worth of work. No greater honor has there been than to represent these hard-working folks, first in the State House and now in the State Senate.

Finally, I'm thankful for the opportunities God has given me. Being the youngest of five children of Chester and Eleanor Rupp taught me how to be persistent and make the most out of what God has given me. I'm thankful for the guidance and wisdom they gave me to achieve what I have today.

I hope this Thanksgiving Day you'll find yourself surrounded by family and friends with plenty of good food and the blessings we enjoy. If you have the resources, I encourage you to help out your fellow man where you can. Drop an extra dollar into the Salvation Army kettle as you walk past the bell ringers. Set aside some extra non-perishable goods from your next shopping trip to drop off at the local food banks. Volunteer a little time to serve up turkey and dressing at the local homeless shelter to those who might just be a little down on their luck. You'll find yourself blessed once again with the ability to share your bounty with those around you and truly appreciate the words: "Happy Thanksgiving!"

If you have comments or questions about this week's column or any other matter involving state government, please do not hesitate to contact me. You can reach my office by phone at (866) 271-2844.