



MISSOURI SENATE

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JEFFERSON CITY

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**A Column for the Week
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Being Thankful

JEFFERSON CITY — In just about a week, we will celebrate Thanksgiving Day and the start of the holiday season. While many of the stores already started putting up the Christmas decorations about a week after Labor Day, I think it is important not to forget the day remembered for turkeys and cranberries, football and friends, and most importantly, why we are thankful. I'd like to take a few moments this week and let you what I'm thankful for this year.

First of all, I'm thankful for my family. I'm so glad God brought into my life my beautiful bride of nearly the last 30 years, Nancy. The fact that she picked the young man who helped broadcast the Dexter football games (and still lives for those Friday night lights) way back in high school is a miracle in itself. Our three sons, Jason, Dustin, and Daniel, are our pride and joy, and I am indeed a lucky man to be so blessed.

I'm thankful to live in the greatest area of the greatest state of the greatest country on God's green earth. No where else would you find the combination of hard work, patriotism, and dedication to their fellow man than you'll find in Southeast Missouri. Through tornadoes and droughts, hard freezes and blistering summer days, good times and bad, we have stood together... taking care of ourselves and each other. I'm proud of the way our men and women have without hesitation raised their hands and volunteered to defend our country... whether it was cleaning up after a big storm back home or slugging it out in the desert in a land far away with those who would end our American way of life.

I'm thankful I have the opportunity to serve you, the people of Southeast Missouri, first as a state representative from 2000 to 2004 and then as your state senator from the 25th District from 2004 to today. I am humbled that you have asked me to represent you at the State Capitol in Jefferson City and promise that I will work tirelessly to ensure your priorities are heard as we come back into session in the coming weeks.

Finally, I'm thankful God has given me the opportunities I have had. For a young man who was raised in the small schools of my hometown of Dexter, I have been blessed with the good friends and mentors who have helped me become the man I am today.

Those are just a few of the things I'm thankful for this Thanksgiving. I hope you will be able to take a few moments between your feasts and football games, travels and shopping, leaf raking and Christmas decorating to reflect on what you're thankful for. I'm sure your list will be as long as mine.

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Senator Robert Mayer represents the people of Wayne, Ripley, Butler, Stoddard, New Madrid, Pemiscot and Dunklin counties in the Missouri Senate.