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Frankly Speaking –

Render Thanksgiving Now as Then!

by Frank Jordan

This year let us celebrate Thanksgiving now as in the original setting in 1620, remembering the reasons and who we celebrate on this special holiday. William Bradford was the leader and second governor of Plymouth Colony where he served for 51 years, including the first Thanksgiving on December 13, 1621.

Bradford, in his writings, reported the first

winter in 1620 was a series of tragedies, even though it could have been worse if corn stored by the Indians had not been found and the Pilgrims had been unable to build their first homes of twigs and mud. Bradford claimed it was a miracle and only due to the deep faith of the colonists in God that they survived and stayed. That first winter in the colony an as-

tounding 51 of the 102 Pilgrims died from a strange disease, including 13 of 24 heads of family, 20 of 24 mothers in the colonies and the first governor, John Carver.

No one protested or rioted or asked for redistribution of scarce resources; they prayed and worked at whatever needed to be done. In spite of the adversities and diminished numbers, during the next year the colony grew and succeeded with ample crops and game in the storage. This success led to the first Thanksgiving being decreed to be celebrated on December 13, 1621. The public notice William Bradford posted as governor set forth both his original and our reasons today for celebrating Thanksgiving,

have enabled us to have ample food stores for winter, protection from savages and warm homes while being spared from a national disease crisis.

We are blessed, as were the first Pilgrims, to have freedom of religion even though assailed; the right to bear arms even though attacked; and freedom of speech even though now too often filled with public filth. Give thanks and recognize we are not victims, but citizens of the greatest nation in history – the United States of America. Certainly we have shortcomings as a nation, but we have much more to be proud of in our brief history and rather than changing it, we should honor it.

Let us give thanks for the blessings the U.S. has brought to so many in the world and to be positive rather than apologetic for our forefathers and those who have sacrificed so much to assure our freedoms. It is time to recognize, not ignore and denigrate, our founding Fathers and our military and civilian heroes. Let us all read Psalm 107 as one of thanksgiving that was read at the First Thanksgiving in 1621 and should be read each year at our personal Thanksgiving celebrations.

Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; his love endures forever...
..Let them give thanks to the Lord for His unfailing love and His wonderful deeds for men...

Frankly speaking, may God bless you, may God bless America, and may we all have a Happy Thanksgiving by "...rendering thanksgiving to Almighty God for all His blessings," as did the first Pilgrims and their leader who recognized God, not government, was the source of true blessings!

TO ALL YE PILGRIMS

In as much as the great Father has given us this year an abundant harvest...and has made the forest to abound in game and the sea with fish...and inasmuch as He has protected us from the ravages of the savages, has spared us from pestilence and disease, has granted us freedom to worship God according to the dictates of our own conscience; now I do proclaim that all ye Pilgrims...do gather at ye meeting house...and render thanksgiving to ye Almighty God for all His blessings.

There is hope Christianity will be given the same treatment and respect as other faiths. Our forefathers in America had no doubt who was responsible for their blessings and survival. As in that first Thanksgiving, we as a nation and as individuals more than ever need to thank our God for all His blessings given to us and His miracles that



DAYTON ROTARY WELCOMES FFA TEAM MEMBERS

Rotarian and CTE Director Vonnie Anderson, Maci Belt, Cassidy Headrick, Brady Vauter, Reese Durbin, Jaylyn Carbajal and Ag Teacher Logan Ross.

Dayton FFA team lists many accomplishments at Rotary club meeting

The Dayton Rotary Club welcomed an outstanding group of student leaders at its Thursday meeting, as the Dayton FFA Agricultural Issues Forum Team presented their award-winning discussion on sand mining in Liberty County. The meeting, held at the Dayton Community Center and presided over by Rotary President Dr. Luke

Chachere, showcased the talent, preparation, and professionalism of Dayton ISD's agricultural science students.

The meeting opened with an invocation and pledges, followed by introductions of Rotary Assistant Governor Ernestine Belts, whose granddaughter participated in the presentation. Rotarian Vonnie Anderson, also CTE Director for Dayton ISD, introduced the FFA team and highlighted the chapter's long list of recent accomplishments, which included the Sweepstakes Award at District LDE, placing 12th in the nation in Spanish Creed and 8th in the nation in Agricultural Advertising. Dayton alumnus Logan Chachere was also recognized nationally for earning the prestigious American FFA Degree.

Rotarian Anderson then introduced Agricultural Science teacher Logan Ross who introduced the Ag Issues Forum Team of Maci Belt, Cassidy Headrick, Brady Vauter, Reese Durbin, and Jaylyn Carbajal. The team delivered its full competition script titled, "Sand: Mind the Sand or Save the Land? Should We Continue Sand Mining in Liberty County?" Following the presentation, the students participated in an in-depth question-and-answer session with Rotary members.

DHS has 858 members – the eighth largest FFA chapter in the state. Rotary members praised the team for their confidence, speaking skills, and community involvement. Several members noted that Dayton students consistently outperform their peers at events

across the region.

In club business, members were reminded that the four-wheeler drawing is ongoing and all proceeds will support Rotary service projects. In other business, Dr. Chachere told Rotarians the Rotary Christmas Party will take place December 5, at the home of Jessica Johnson. The meeting concluded with the recitation of the Rotary Four-Way Test and closing remarks from Dr. Chachere.

The Dayton Rotary Club meets each Thursday at noon and continues its mission of "Service Above Self" by supporting youth programs, community initiatives, and local partnerships throughout Liberty County. If anyone is interested in joining, then the Dayton Rotary Club invites you to attend their weekly meeting.



DAYTON ROTARY SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISER

DAYTON - Dayton Rotary Club is selling tickets to benefit its annual scholarship fund for local students. This year's big prize is a CForce 400 automatic quad. This powerful 4-wheeler is equipped with high, low, neutral, reverse and park, 4-wheel drive and independent rear suspension.

Tickets are \$100 each with only 250 to be sold. Every ticket purchased not only gives you a chance to win this incredible 4-wheeler but also helps raise \$25,000 (if all tickets are sold) for student scholarships to assist Dayton students achieve their dreams of higher education and career success. Purchase your ticket before December 4 by using the QR code at right, contacting any member of the Dayton Rotary Club or online at givebutter.com/c/noRkFp.



2026 Boots & Bullets set for January 17

DAYTON - Get ready for a night out at the annual Boots and Bullets event benefitting the Dayton Volunteer Fire Department. This premier Dayton event will take place January 17, from 6 p.m. to midnight at the Dayton Community Center. The evening will feature live music, along with dancing, and silent and live auctions. Tables for 10 are \$600, which includes a steak dinner, so gather your friends together for this worthwhile

event. All proceeds go to the Dayton Volunteer Fire Department, an all-volunteer organization.

Please consider supporting the Dayton Volunteer Fire Department by donating items for the live or silent auction at this year's fundraiser. For more information, to donate an item for the auctions or reserve a table, contact Chad Glatfelter at 936-402-3280, Amanda Wilson at 936-258-6630, and Alvin Burress at 936-402-5875.



Liberty Church of Christ

Join us this Sunday for Bible Classes for all ages at 9 a.m. and stay for Worship at 10 a.m.

We meet Sunday night at 5 p.m. and Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.

We meet at 3201 North Main Street and have a parking space just for you.

We'd love to see you soon. We've saved you a seat!

3201 N. Main St., Liberty • 936.336.2213 • libertycofc.org



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936-336-6416