



November 21, 2018

Happy Thanksgiving!

As we enter the uniquely American season of Thanksgiving, which we all celebrate regardless of religious tradition, race or ethnicity, we have a chance to give thanks. Without hesitation, we can say, "Happy Thanksgiving!" to everyone!

But, for many families, especially those who have lost loved ones this year, empty seats around the Thanksgiving table will create heartache and will produce some tears. Many can't unite with their family around the Thanksgiving table, especially those who are experiencing homelessness. We have a moral obligation to invite them to whatever gathering they might be comfortable in, and to work for and pray for a better future.

We can be inspired by the thankful words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.: "O God, we thank you for the lives of great saints and prophets in the past, who have revealed to us that we can stand up amid the problems and difficulties and trials of life and not give in. We thank you for our foreparents, who've given us something in the midst of the darkness of exploitation and oppression to keep going. Grant that we will go on with the proper faith and the proper determination of will, so that we will be able to make a creative contribution to this world."

President Barack Obama expressed these thoughts about Thanksgiving in 2014: "As we gather with family and friends to take part in this uniquely American celebration, we give thanks for the extraordinary opportunities we have in a Nation of limitless possibilities, and we pay tribute to all those who defend our Union as members of our Armed Forces. This holiday reminds us to show compassion and concern for people we have never met and deep gratitude toward those who have sacrificed to help build the most prosperous Nation on earth. These traditions honor the rich history of our country and hold us together as one American family, no matter who we are or where we come from."

Happy Thanksgiving to everyone!

Sincerely,

La Shawn K. Ford
State Representative-Eighth District