



(NOVEMBER 21, 2011)

In order to further improve the lines of communication and to respond to the concerns between the National VA Council and you our members, I have established a National VA Council Briefing. This NVAC Briefing will bring you the latest news and developments within DVA and provide you with the current status of issues this Council is currently addressing. I believe that this NVAC Briefing will greatly enhance the way in which we communicate and the way in which we share new information, keeping you better informed.

Alma L. Lee

National VA Council, President

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**In This Briefing: Thanksgiving Greetings**

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The leaves have fallen and the trees are bare, temperatures are dropping and frost is on the window panes. This is a clear message that Thanksgiving is upon us and Christmas won't be far behind. This week, we will celebrate a uniquely American holiday ~ Thanksgiving! Kitchens across the country will be filled with family, friends and tempting recipes, aromas and the smells will fill the air in anticipation of gathering for the feast. Parades, football, the gathering of family and friends; may we all pause to give thanks for the many blessings in our lives.

Thanksgiving began as a tradition of celebrating the harvest and is celebrated on the fourth Thursday in November by federal legislation since 1941. It has been an annual tradition in the United States by proclamation since 1863 and by State legislation since our founding fathers.

As we celebrate Thanksgiving, keep in mind the true meaning of Thanksgiving; sharing and giving thanks. With this in mind, it is impossible to overlook the many sacrifices of the men and women of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Reserves and others who have secured our freedom and preserved those traditions.

Remember, Thanksgiving has been around for many years and many traditions have risen from it. Again, it reminds us of the early celebrations of bringing in the harvest, our thankfulness for peace, and the accomplishments of those who walked before us. It is important that we give thanks and acknowledgment to the things and people that we are thankful for. This may be one of the most significant parts of our Thanksgiving gathering.

On behalf of the National Veterans Affairs Council Officers, Executive Board and Staff, please accept our sincere and warmest wishes to you and yours for a Happy Thanksgiving! May your blessings be abundant!