

Dear Friend,

During this Thanksgiving holiday, odds are that you will probably be asked the preverbal question “What are you thankful for?” This question always seems to come up at dinner tables, churches and family gatherings this time of year but quite frankly, I haven’t heard many positive responses lately.

Forgive me if that sounds cynical, but this year I couldn’t help from thinking about all of the things that I am NOT thankful for. I know that seems very pessimistic, but hear me out...

Our country is currently facing serious challenges that should concern us all. I am not thankful for the high unemployment rate and the jobless numbers affecting millions of Americans. I am not thankful for the challenges facing our VA system and the lack of quality care for our nation’s veterans. I am not thankful for the ongoing violence in the Middle East and the spread of ISIS in Iraq and Syria.

But while dwelling on all of these problems, I happened to come across a story about the reality of the horrific conditions the early Pilgrims faced, the same Pilgrims which are the origins of the holiday we celebrate today. They faced famine, disease and brutal winter weather resulting in countless deaths. They too had much NOT to be thankful for. Yet despite these seemingly insurmountable challenges, the early settlers did not give up on their faith in God or on their fundamental principles of hard work and determination which laid the foundation for this great country that we all love today. They still found time to gather together and give thanks.

So while there might be a lot of things we are NOT thankful for, our Pilgrim forefathers remind us of all the blessings we may take for granted. Every generation of Americans has faced challenges that threatened their way of life. We are no exception. But we should remember and be grateful for the brave Americans that have come before us and built a nation endowed with liberty, justice and a Republic to defend these ideals. If we follow their lead and never abandon our core principals, I am confident that we too can overcome our own challenges and leave a brighter future for our children.

From my family to yours—may you have a happy and blessed Thanksgiving.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S.
Member of Congress

