



## Remembering the Blessings A Thanksgiving Message

On this Thanksgiving Day, let us remember to be thankful that our Creator is always cognizant of us, and that the Holy People always bestow their blessings upon us.

Be thankful that the Creator sees us through another night, and blesses us with a new day. Be thankful that He always loves us, takes care of us, gives us material things and spiritual blessings.

Be thankful for the strength, knowledge and wisdom we have been given to live by, to be men and to be women. Be thankful for our homes and families, our parents and grandparents, our wives, our husbands, our children and our siblings.

On Thanksgiving Day, and every day thereafter, let's be thankful for the food that is placed before us. Pray that the Creator puts love and generosity and knowledge into it, that we become generous, and that we have love in our hearts.

Be thankful for the job you have, for the people you work with, for the people you look after, and for the people who look after us and our families – teachers, doctors, police officers, and our men and women in the Armed Forces.

Be thankful to the veterans in your life for putting their lives on the line to preserve yours. Be thoughtful of the people we are here to serve, whether it's a child, an elder, a veteran, a grandparent or all the Navajo people.

Be thankful that the Creator continues to guide us so that we can continue to accomplish on behalf of our People, our Land, our Government, our Nation. Be thankful for these things because it is these that make us great.

Be thankful for the dedication and hard work of those we work with, our Governors, U.S. Senators and Congressmen, state senators and representatives, tribal leaders, and heads of state throughout the world. Pray that our people and our leaders can continue to be effective and have diplomacy in working with them all.

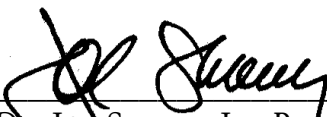
Remember that we were once very independent, very fierce, and very proud – dependent on no one. We were known as fierce warriors. That is where that name *naabaahii* comes from. Be thankful that a foreign power did not do away with us, did not take the land away, did not take our sovereignty away.

Be thankful that as a People we have picked up the remnants, and we are well on our way to getting back to standing on our own two feet, to regaining the independence that was taken away.

Our Navajo People have every reason to stand proud. Our name is resounding throughout the world. We are more than 300,000 strong, and our homeland is more than 27,000 square miles. Despite the daily difficulties and needs of so many of our People, be thankful that our clans from antiquity remain strong today, that our language continues to be spoken, and that our culture is vibrant and alive.

Be thankful for the medicine people and herbalists who continue to heal our People, and share their teachings, songs and ceremonies with us to keep us strong as a People and as a Nation. Be thankful that their knowledge is still among us.

Be thankful that you were born a Navajo, and that wherever you stand within the Four Sacred Directions, that the Holy People and the Creator has blessed you with beauty and goodness all around.



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DR. JOE SHIRLEY JR., PRESIDENT  
THE NAVAJO NATION