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**From:** Independence Hall Foundation <getsmarty@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 24, 2016 6:04 PM  
**To:** Haley, Nikki  
**Subject:** Top 10 Reasons to be Thankful This Year!



Thursday, November 24, 2016

Dear **Members** and **Friends**,

As you all know, the **Thanksgiving tradition** was established long ago by our **Spanish, French, and British forebears** who explored and inhabited portions of current US territory in the 16th and 17th centuries.

Although of different nationalities, they shared a common desire **to praise and thank God for the many blessings He had bestowed upon them.**

Considering the incredible sacrifices that they and countless others have made over the centuries--sacrifices which eventually led to the founding and establishment of our great Republic--we, as beneficiaries, have even more of a reason to be thankful.

**At the foundation of all that we are and all that we possess is our Creator--and we will never forget this often ignored truth.**

Top 10 Reasons to be Thankful in 2016

10. **The Broadway show *Hamilton*** -- Despite its left-leaning playwright--and so many other ironies behind its development and promotion--the wildly popular and phenomenally told story is awakening the importance of our Founders, and the constitutional republic they established, in audiences young and old, left and right alike.

9. **The 2016 Chicago Cubs Team** -- They reminded us all of the importance of hope. Never give up your dreams for they often come true--even if it takes a century!

8. **The 2016 US Summer Olympic Team** -- The hard work and determination of so many of our victorious young athletes is a sustaining inspiration to us all. Their faith and patriotism was on display for the entire world to see.

7. **The Brexit Vote** -- British citizens shocked the world by astutely proclaiming that the centralization of power is the opposite of liberty. What citizens of every nation deserve is less government regulation/bureaucracy and more freedom over their own destinies.

6. **Republicans in Power** -- With the election of Donald Trump and Mike Pence, and the re-election of Senators Pat Toomey, Marco Rubio, Mike Lee, and the Republican Congress, the big government reform movement, begun by the Tea Party in 2009, is poised to make its long-range mark on domestic and foreign policy.

Hopefully, the repeal of ObamaCare, the withdrawal of American support for the Paris global warming treaty, the dismantling of the Iran Deal, the elimination of restrictive business regulations, the enactment of tax and spending reform, and the appointment of originalist justices to the US Supreme Court will become a reality.

5. **The End of the Clinton/Obama Era** -- If Republicans can present a unified front, based on conservative principles mentioned above, the leftward lurch of the past two Democrat administrations could become a footnote in history.

4. **The Electoral College and the US Constitution** -- It's now apparent that Hillary Clinton won the popular vote by well over 2 million votes--a nearly 2% margin over her main opponent. It's the Electoral College, created by the US Constitution, which Donald Trump ironically opposed until this month, that makes him President-elect Trump.

3. **Our Brave Men and Women in Blue** -- They don their uniforms everyday to ensure that our constitutional rights are protected--yet they're continually under assault for doing so. They put their own lives on the line to defend our basic rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

2. **The American Armed Services and Defense Agencies** -- Whether they are on the front lines or in supportive roles, they keep vigilance over our nation's safety and security. Due to their efforts, radical Islamic terrorists have been unable to launch a large-scale military attack on US Territory since September 11, 2001.

1. **The 225th Anniversary of the Bill of Rights** -- On December 15, 1791 (225 years ago this 2016), the Bill of Rights became enshrined in the US Constitution when Virginia became the 10th state to ratify the first Ten

Amendments. As Americans, we draw our fundamental legal rights from this monumental document.

These are our thoughts on a national holiday which predates the birth of our nation. Tell us your thoughts.

Happy Thanksgiving!

On behalf of the Foundation,  
Don Adams



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