



CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20318-9999

THANKSGIVING 2005

This Thanksgiving we join Americans everywhere in giving thanks for the many blessings we enjoy as citizens of this great Nation.

Those freedoms for which we give thanks, however, came about only through tremendous sacrifice. Nearly 400 years ago, the Pilgrims inaugurated Thanksgiving after surviving the first harsh winter at Plymouth. George Washington proclaimed the first national day of Thanksgiving during the early struggles of the republic, and Abraham Lincoln later revived the tradition following the dark days of the Civil War.

On this Thanksgiving Day, we are again engaged in a great struggle, this time against terrorists who threaten the values we hold so dear. Like those before you, a new generation of courageous Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, Coast Guardsmen and Merchant Marines continues the noble tradition of service to the Nation. To each of you in uniform, we are thankful for your dedication and selflessness. Many will pause on this special day, and give thanks for the freedom your service makes possible.

On this special holiday, a day when duty will keep many of you away from home and loved ones, the Joint Chiefs join me in sending you and your families our best wishes for a happy Thanksgiving.

PETER PACE

General, United States Marine Corps
Chairman
of the Joint Chiefs of Staff