



Give Thanks

Many of us are very concerned about the world around us. The stock market has vacillated and dropped over 20% in the last two months. The election results will not change the short-term economic situation. Do we panic and jump out at twenty-story windows, or do we knuckle down and move forward?

The Federal Reserve has dropped its prime rate nine times recently, and the US Government has stepped in to stabilize the bank defaults and Wall Street woes. We had over 800 bank closures in 1987, and the government formed the Resolution Trust to sell off the assets of failed banks, creating a tremendous opportunity for the savvy investor. Although we are seeing some very tough times and many families are impacted by the economic downturn, we must try to see the silver lining in the clouds before us. Our nation has seen more difficult times and we have come through them stronger and more prosperous. The stock market was at 1700 in 1987 and we now remain around 9,000, which is an increase of 529%. Once the market stabilizes, we will have tremendous opportunities to invest in real estate and stocks that will be at a fair market price.

Our nation will certainly be tested in the next six months, but we must remember that we are blessed. If we work hard, trim our sails, and put our hearts and minds together, we can and will come out of this debacle stronger and more powerful than before. We in the Capital District have a tremendous opportunity before us. With AMD and the nano-tech firms coming into our region, the near future looks bright.

In difficult times, it is easy to get wrapped up in the negative, to get hung upon the "what ifs." We need to stay positive as a nation, and as individuals. Take time to give thanks for what you have been blessed with, and help one another in need. Our two greatest presidents saw to it that we set aside time to give thanks.

After we won the Revolutionary War, while drowning in national debt, George Washington asked that we give thanks as a nation for the blessings that we had received.

After delivering the Gettysburg Address to a nation in a state of turmoil, Lincoln proclaimed a national day of thanksgiving.

"It has seemed to me fit and proper that they should be solemnly, reverently and gratefully acknowledged as with one heart and voice by the whole American people. I do therefore invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next, as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelled in the Heavens."

– President Abraham Lincoln

President Lincoln proclaimed the last Thursday in November a day of thanksgiving in the year 1863.

Give thanks for all that we have been blessed with this holiday season and pray for our nation.

– Publisher

Thanksgiving Proclamation

New York, 3 October 1789

By the President of the United States of America, a Proclamation:

"Whereas it is the duty of all Nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey his will, to be grateful for his benefits, and humbly to implore his protection and favor—and whereas both Houses of Congress have by their joint Committee requested me to recommend to the People of the United States a day of public thanksgiving and prayer to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many signal favors of Almighty God especially by affording them an opportunity peaceably to establish a form of government for their safety and happiness."

– President George Washington