



A Proclamation by the Ellis County Commissioners' Court In Observance Of Thanksgiving in Ellis County, Texas

WHEREAS, the American people have much to be grateful for as the inheritors of a long and proud history stretching back in time further than the Declaration of Independence in 1776; and

WHEREAS, following years of religious intolerance by the Church of England, approximately 100 Puritans departed from Plymouth, England aboard the Mayflower in 1620 on a quest to build a new life in the Americas; and

WHEREAS, the Pilgrims remained undeterred by hardships scarcely fathomable to the 21st century mind and completed their journey to America, landing at Plymouth Bay and drafting America's first Constitution: the Mayflower Compact; and

WHEREAS, cooperating together under a common spirit of perseverance, these Pilgrims suffered together through their first winter in 1620-1620, during which approximately half of them died; and

WHEREAS, through friendship and diplomacy, the Pilgrims accepted the patronage of Wampanoag Chief Massasoit and his assistant Squanto, who taught them how to farm in this unfamiliar, unforgiving climate; and

WHEREAS, Chief Massasoit would eventually be honored as the namesake for the new colony: Massachusetts Bay, which became the birthplace of American Liberty during the Revolutionary War; and

WHEREAS, by the grace of God, the surviving Pilgrims and their native allies grew sufficient crops to sustain themselves into the Fall of 1621, which they culminated with a large communal feast shared amongst themselves and with the Wampanoag; and

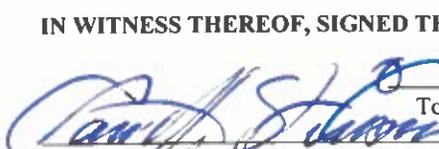
WHEREAS, replacing their practice of communal farming with private ownership and incentive, the Pilgrims not only survived, but improved their yields by 1624, at which time they again celebrated their survival with a feast more bountiful than they could have ever imagined and never ceasing to praise God for their deliverance; and

WHEREAS, as Plymouth Colony Governor William Bradford wrote in his memoir, the purpose of Thanksgiving is "that [our] children may see what difficulties their fathers had to wrestle in accomplishing the first beginnings; and how God ultimately brought them through..."

WHEREAS, ever since the bountiful Thanksgiving feast of 1624, Americans have continued to set aside time each November to enjoy a meal together and reflect on their blessings; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED that we, the Commissioners of Ellis County, Texas, hereby recognize Thanksgiving in Ellis County on Thursday, November 28th, 2024 and encourage all Ellis County citizens to thoughtfully pray and reflect on the blessings they have inherited.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, SIGNED THE 26th of NOVEMBER, 2024 -


Randy Stinson, Commissioner, Precinct 1


Todd Little, Ellis County Judge


Lane Grayson, Commissioner, Precinct 2


Louis Ponder, Commissioner, Precinct 3


Kyle Butler, Commissioner, Precinct 4


Attest: Krystal Valdez, County Clerk