

Gazette



Veterans Day, formerly known as Armistice Day, was originally set as a U.S. legal holiday to honor the end of World War I, which official took place on Nov. 11, 1918. In legislation that was passed in 1938, Nov. 11 was "dedicated to the cause of world peace and to be hereafter celebrated and know as 'Armistice Day' ".



Thanksgiving Day is a national holiday in the United States, and Thanksgiving 2022 occurs on Thursday, November 24. In 1621, the Plymouth colonists and the Wampanoag shared an autumn harvest feast that is acknowledged today as one of the first Thanksgiving celebrations in the colonies. For more than two centuries, days of thanksgiving were celebrated by individual colonies and states. It wasn't until 1863, in the midst of the Civil War, that President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed a national Thanksgiving Day to be held each November.

On this Thanksgiving Day let us be grateful for our abundance, thankful for our manifold blessings. Let us also be profoundly appreciative of our freedom to worship according to our hearts and minds.



It's easy to be thankful when our health is good and everything seems to be going our way. But what about in times of adversity and sickness? The Apostle Paul reminds us to "give thanks in all circumstances..." (1 Thessalonians 5:18 NIV). Certainly easier said than done! However, an attitude of gratitude an change your perspective on troublesome life events when you can't change the circumstances. Contemporary Pastor Chuck Swindoll surmised, "Life is 10% what happens to you and 90% how you react to it."

Over a century and a half earlier, Confederate Chaplain E.M. Bounds wrote...

Gratitude arises form a contemplation of the goodness of God. It arises when we meditate on what God has done for us. Gratitude and thanksgiving both point to, and have to do with God and His mercies. The heart is consciously grateful to God. The soul gives expression to that heartfelt gratitude to God in words or acts. Gratitude is born of meditation an God's grace and mercy. Praise is brought about by gratitude and a conscious obligation to God for mercies given.as we think of mercies past, our hearts are inwardly moved to gratitude" (from The Power of Prayer).

When we gather together with friends and family this Thanksgiving, may we humbly acknowledge with grateful hearts the role of divine providence in our lives and "give thanks unto the LORD, for his is good: for his mercy endureth forever (Psalm 107:1 KIV)

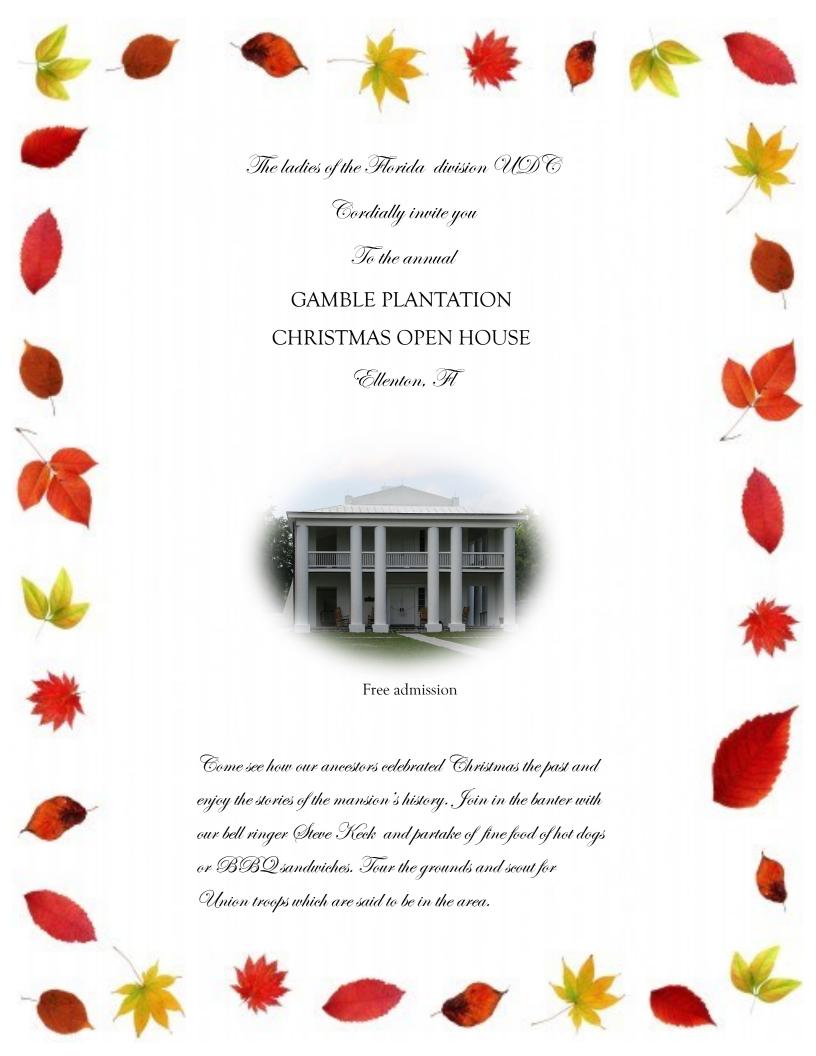
A VETERANS DAY PRAYER

God of all nations, you are our Strength and Shield. We give you thanks today for the devotion and courage of all those who have offered military service for this country...

We ask today that you would lift up by your Spirit those who are now at war; encourage and heal those in hospitals or mending their wounds at home; guard those in any need or trouble; hold safely in your hands al military families and bring the returning troops to joyful reunion and tranquil life at home. Give to us, your people, grateful hearts and a united will to honor these men and women and hold them always in our love and our prayers until your world is perfected in peace and all wars cease.

Through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

—-Rev. Dr. Jennifer Phillips





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