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IRC page

November 2011

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THANKSGIVING DAY Fourth Thursday in November

Thanksgiving Day: A Time for Reflection, Gratitude, and Sharing

Thanksgiving Day in the United States is possibly the most important U.S. family celebration. Typically celebrated at home or in a community setting, it is marked with a substantial feast. Thanksgiving provides an occasion for reunions of friends and families, and it affords Americans a shared opportunity to express gratitude for the freedoms they enjoy, as well as food, shelter and peace.

Many Americans also take time to prepare and serve meals to the needy at soup kitchens, churches and homeless shelters. Others donate to food drives or participate in charity fundraisers; in fact, hundreds of nonprofit groups throughout the country hold Thanksgiving Day charity running races called "Turkey Trots."

Thanksgiving marks the beginning of the "holiday season" that continues



Symbols of Thanksgiving: Turkey, corn, pumpkins, squash, nuts, and cranberry sauce

through New Year's Day. The Friday after Thanksgiving is one of the busiest shopping days of the year.

Every year, the president issues a proclamation designating the fourth Thursday in November (November 26 this year) a National Day of Thanksgiving. It is an official federal holiday, and

virtually all government offices and schools — and most businesses — are closed.

"As Americans, we hail from every part of the world," President Obama says in his proclamation. "While we observe traditions from every culture, Thanksgiving Day is a unique national tradition we all share. Its spirit binds us together as one people, each of us thankful for our common blessings."



A happy family dinner to celebrate Thanksgiving Day

The United States of America - Focus On:

Honolulu



Island of Oahu

beaches, shops, restaurants and abundance of outdoor activities - from surfing lessons to catamaran sailing. Speaking of surfing, most locals and visitors ride their boards in the waters around Haleiwa, a beach town on the



Hula performance in Hawaii

While the city of Honolulu bustles with business, museums, and the Foster Botanical Gardens (a terrific spot for a picnic), the city is best known as the jumping-off point for Hawaii's island of Oahu. Most visitors congregate at Waikiki because of its glorious swimming



Honolulu Festival

North Shore. Those interested in U.S. history visit the USS Arizona Memorial honoring those killed during the December 1941 attacks on Pearl Harbor and the USS Missouri, a battleship decommissioned in 1992.



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A congressional resolution moved Thanksgiving Day to the fourth Thursday:

A. in 1789 by President George Washington

B. In 1941

C. In 1863 by President Abraham Lincoln

The correct answer is:

Email your answer to wfr@state.gov.
The first three persons who finds the correct answer will win a prize from us!

Information Resource Center

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