

## Thanksgiving 2016

Thanksgiving Day, also known as feasting, football and family, is a day for all of us to be thankful of what we have. Here are a few of my reasons for being thankful. I was honored to be the Veterans Day speaker at Ulen High School. When invited, I assume I would be presenting to the students in Ulen, forgetting that in smaller communities it is a community celebration. It was that way in Newfolden, days of my youth. The Clay County Union had a story and photos on the front page of their 14 November edition. National Honor Society students were in charge of most the program. I talked with two of them, both are planning n attending MSUM next fall.

I am thankful that men and women are serving in the US Armed Forces. Being stationed overseas during holidays is difficult. Please remember to thank a service member or Veteran for their service. We like to hear it, even though some of say we were simply serving our country.

I'm thankful for family, immediate and extended. My Sweetie Bev is a wonderful addition to my life. We celebrate our 18 month anniversary this month after celebrating our sixth first date anniversary last month. My cute granddaughter celebrated her third birthday earlier this month. She calls me 'Papa Les', pretty cool, huh? I am also thankful for all my friends who put up with me and my sometimes crazy ideas.

November 17 was MN Give to the Max Day and I know many of you donated to your favorite cause or organization. I am thankful. Donations to charitable organizations are usually tax deductible.

November also marks the beginning of college basketball season. Sweetie Bev and I love to watch the Dragons men's and women's teams. They are both looking good this year.

On a grander scale, I am thankful for the smooth transition of power following the election. I am proud of our country.

Finally, as my college friend and fellow Veteran, Dick Sauer used to say "I'm sure glad I'm not a turkey!"