



Wishing You a Happy and Grateful Thanksgiving

For some Thanksgiving is simply a time of year to reap the benefits of a garden harvest, spend time with family, or simply enjoy another long weekend. The enjoyment of this holiday weekend is as unique as the individual. I must admit that although I enjoy the family visits, good times, laughter, shared memories, turkey dinner, pumpkin pie, an evening walk, and maybe a game or two, the true purpose of this holiday is to give thanks and be thankful.

Like most, the gifts in my life are many. However, I have learned that the people in my life are my greatest treasure. Although I make every attempt to never take my friends and family for granted, unfortunately, that is not always the case. We simply expect life to continue as it is, so it is easy to forget that our time here is unknown.

Our life's journey is to learn and grow and to make a difference in the lives we touch. Perhaps we want to ensure that we will leave this world a better place because we were here. If you recall, last Thanksgiving I shared the story about "Nightbird", who sadly succumbed to her battle. Despite living a shorter life, she managed to reach and affect so many people with her courage, words of wisdom, and encouragement "to never give up".

This past year, I was witness to another courageous soul. She couldn't sing like Nightbird. She never walked from coast to coast. She didn't break any world records. She never had her name in lights, nor did she climb any great mountain. She was much more than this. The woman that I refer to gave her heart and soul to her three children. She never went a night without phoning her aging mother. She found a way to laugh at her husband's bad jokes. She was a voice of reasoning, a confidant. She loved to travel despite always over packing. She was truly a beautiful person, and she was my sister. Her journey ended this spring, and she took a piece of my heart with her. Do I wish that I was able to spend more time with her—yes. Do I wish that I had told her how much I loved her—yes. Do I wish that we had more time—yes! It is easy to get caught up with life's many distractions and, of course, we expect that our loved one's will always be with us. My sister did not accomplish world greatness, but my world is a better place because she was here. The times that we shared will forever be pressed between the pages of my book of memories.

We all have special people who enter our lives, some for only a short time while others are with us for our lifetime. I hope that this Thanksgiving you will reach out and tell those who mean the world to you exactly how you feel because there are no guarantees and life is so precious.

*Please know how much I appreciate working with so many thoughtful and caring people.
Wishing you and your family a very Happy and Grateful Thanksgiving!*