


A Thanksgiving Reflection: Profound Gratitude

With the recent tragedy of Tuesday, September 11, still fresh in my mind, I have paused many times during recent days to reflect on my life. It seems that life is a very fragile commodity that is often taken for granted. As I look back on the horror that unfolded here, I realize how truly blessed I am. By sharing some of my blessings hopefully you will realize some of your own.

In what other country in the world do citizens have as many freedoms, rights and privileges as we do? No place that I can think of! We have the ability to travel with relative ease to any place we choose. The freedom to voice our opinions or disagree with another's is not a liberty many other countries enjoy. A wide variety of entertainment and educational programs are available for everyone. Our children have the opportunity to pursue their wildest dreams and aspirations.

I enjoy my work and look forward to getting up each and every morning. There is nothing like seeing the sunrise, awakening the golf course with all of its beauty and variety of wildlife. I am outside working with Mother Nature when the weather is good and inside using other skills when the weather is bad. I create beautiful vistas for others to enjoy with the plants I choose to use. I have the unique opportunity to work with some of the most talented people in the area. My assistant, Russ Wescott, has the ability to see the things I seem to miss and handle any problems in short order. I am truly thankful for all of his assistance. The rest of my crew brings something special to the equation that helps us work so well together as a team.

I have made many friends with whom I can share all of the different aspects of my life. The friends and family I have are truly the most important and valuable things in my life. My best friend is my wife, Jill. She has stood by me and supported me with everything I have tried. She is the one who provides the balance to my life. It is one of my greatest joys to spend time with my family doing things we all enjoy.

Hopefully, all of my disjointed ramblings will afford you the opportunity to reflect on some of the things in your own life that you are thankful for. Unfortunately, sometimes it takes a tragedy or loss for us to recognize and honor the good things in our lives. 

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