



Comrades,

The winter season is starting here in Utah and with the crispness in the air, the slight frost in the mornings about to begin and the excitement for the snow. We are luckiest state because we have the most amazing and beautiful mountains covered in a nice white blanket of snow to admire all winter long. We are also very Family Oriented State. We have Big Thanksgiving Dinners and go out as a family to see the Christmas Decorations and lights at Temple Square or around our communities.

But sometime there are Veterans who don't have family and friends to enjoy the holidays with. I would like everyone to celebrate "Friendsgiving". Friendsgiving captures the essence of togetherness during challenging times. This month (November), I am inviting our VFW family to lean into the idea of Friendsgiving. Even in the strange, imperfect grief world, we can still get together and lean into what we know to be true - that we aren't alone, that we are part of something bigger than ourselves, and that it does help to share pie or turkey sandwiches with people who "get it."

The Thanksgiving holiday, at its heart, is about gratitude, community, and the imperative to continue despite challenging conditions. The "Friendsgiving" concept is the same - wherever you are, create and celebrate the community you need as you navigate your own new world.

Friendsgiving is an opportunity to support our local Veterans and our communities. What's important, though, is that whether you decide to throw a one-person party or bring together fifty people, you'll be part of a larger story that we're telling - one that helps us all remember that even when it seems like we're trying to carve out an existence on our own, we're actually part of a larger story.

Please reach out to your Post Members, your local uniformed service members and to your local communities to let them know we are here for them and support them. Making a difference in the lives of others many times makes a difference in our lives! Reach Out!

Heath Silcox
Dept of Utah
State Sr Vice Commander
#HEALING TOGETHER
#STILLSERVING

