



# Proclamation

## By the Governor of Alabama

*WHEREAS*, Thanksgiving was not observed as a holiday in Alabama until 1858 after the governors of Alabama, Mississippi, Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina declared, Thursday, November 25 to be a day of thanksgiving; and

*WHEREAS*, because of shortages of food during the Reconstruction period in the South, after the war between the states, Thanksgiving was only celebrated sparsely; and

*WHEREAS*, Southerners began to observe the holiday with a menu much like those in New England, but by the 1890s, Southern families created their own Thanksgiving menus and traditions;

*WHEREAS*, in 1863, Sarah Josepha Hale, known as Thanksgiving's original pioneer, continued her crusade to make Thanksgiving a national holiday. She wrote to Abraham Lincoln encouraging him "to have the day of our annual Thanksgiving made a national and fixed union festival"; and

*WHEREAS*, President Lincoln agreed and proclaimed a nationwide Thanksgiving Day to occur on the last Thursday of November; and

*WHEREAS*, each succeeding president continued the proclamation until 1939, when President Franklin Delano Roosevelt moved the holiday permanently to the fourth Thursday in November to provide retailers with more Christmas shopping days;

*NOW, THEREFORE*, I, the Honorable Kay Ivey, Governor of Alabama, do hereby proclaim November 23, 2023, as

# Thanksgiving Day

in the state of Alabama and encourage all Alabamians to engage in the act of fellowship and giving thanks.



Given Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the  
Office of the Governor at the State Capitol in the City  
of Montgomery on the 17<sup>th</sup> day of November 2023.

*Kay Ivey*

Kay Ivey, Governor