This is a special week in America. It is a time to pause and do something we never do frequently enough, which is to say thank you. Thank you for our many blessings. Thank you to our families for their love. Thank you to our friends for their support. And thank you to the community that surrounds us and protects us even when we are unaware of their help.

Last week, our nation celebrated Veterans Day to commemorate a group of citizens who have protected us day and night, even though we seldom think about them unless we are in a time of war. Now is one of those times, and we join together in saying thank you to our men and women in uniform, both past and present.

At the Plymouth Colony in 1621, the Pilgrims thanked God for the fruits of their first harvest in the new world. They also thanked their new friends, Native Americans from the Wampanoag tribe for enabling them to survive the bitter winter of 1620-21. The Native American community that surrounded the Pilgrims literally saved their lives.

Every Angeleno has their own story about people who have helped them survive or thrive in the City of Angels. Some of these stories are about family and friends. But often they are about people who entered our lives unexpectedly and lent a helping hand or some guiding advice when they didn’t need to.

As we celebrate Thanksgiving in Los Angeles this week, add to your prayers the Angelenos who helped you to thrive or survive. And offer special thanks for those who give unselfishly of their time and resources to help the thousands who would not make it through the winter on their own. Some of these fellow travelers are new to our city, like the Pilgrims in 1621, but many have been with us a long time and are still looking for a brighter future.

I encourage each of us to make a special commitment this Thanksgiving and holiday season to create a Los Angeles that nurtures all of our pilgrims.

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And that’s the Business Perspective for Thanksgiving 2007.