Dear Colleagues:

Happy Thanksgiving. For many, this cherished time of year means having friends and family gather around the dinner table to give thanks for their blessings and we have so much to be thankful for this year. I’m thankful for your commitment, hark work, and dedication to the Department and the American people. In gratitude for your service, I hope you’ll take advantage of the two-hour early dismissal today.

Each year, Americans celebrate the tradition of giving and sharing with family and friends, and extending their generosity to those most in need throughout their communities.

We thank our military members, first responders, and all the dedicated workers who will not be at the dinner table this year as they fulfill their commitment to keep us safe and secure.

Let us also remember the families with empty seats at the table this year, and be mindful of our neighbors who may be struggling during this holiday season.

Next Tuesday, November 30th is Giving Tuesday. It was created in 2012 as an idea to encourage people to do “good”. That effort has since grown into a global movement that has inspired hundreds of millions of people to give, collaborate, and celebrate generosity in an impactful way. If you are able, I encourage you to consider a donation to the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) to help strengthen our communities.

Thank you for the great work you continue to do on behalf of this country and I wish you and your family a safe and Happy Thanksgiving.

Secretary Gina Raimondo