Vol. 6. Issue 11

November 25, 2025

U.S. ARMY BE ALL YOU CAN BE.

SHARP

Pine Bluff Arsenal 24/7 SHARP Hotline 870-209-4093

PBA Safety Glance



Safety Element for fiscal year 2026 Lost Day Case Rate: 1.683

Award Goal: TBA

- *Lost time injuries for fiscal year 2026 are one. There is zero lost time injures for November 2025.
- *Recordable injuries for fiscal year 2026 are 1. Recordable injuries is none for November 2025.
- *Pine Bluff Arsenal days without a lost time injury is 26.
- *Pine Bluff Arsenal days without a recordable injury is 26.
- *Estimated hours worked without a lost time injury: 73,320.

Town Halls held in November

Arsenal commander addresses Workforce

By Rachel Selby

Pine Bluff Arsenal Commander Col. Matthew C. Mason addressed members of the Workforce during five Town Hall meetings held over a two-day period in mid-November.

"I've been in command now for about four months," said Mason. "A lot has been going on so I wanted to bring everyone together. I am never going to hide anything from you. I will tell you what I know and what I don't know."

Right now, Mason said his number one priority is to make sure we expand, grow and are viable and relevant to the Organic Industrial Base.

"My priority is to ensure all of you have jobs and we bring in more people in the future," he said. "I think we are headed in that direction."

Mason said he wanted to thank everyone for their dedication, adaptability and commitment to excellence.

"I haven't met anyone who doesn't want to be here. I have met people who are very enthusiastic about what they do as well as others who are just here for a paycheck. I understand you must take care of your family," he said. "The goal is to make everyone feel a part of the team, so it is less about the paycheck but to be the future of the Arsenal."

Approximately five months ago before Mason took command, an operations order came out about the possibility of the Arsenal closing. "I can't tell you why we were that list,

but we were there," he said. "We didn't argue. We started fighting against the possibility. I can tell you today the Army Transformation Initiative is no longer a threat but an opportunity.

Mason said we went from the "Arsenal of Yesterday" and are moving towards the "Arsenal of Tomorrow". lay the foundation."

Nothing can be done without trust, said Mason. "The foundation of the Army is trust. Without it we aren't going anywhere. I must be transparent. I am not hiding anything," he said. "Having a culture where you can talk to your peers and your first-line supervisor about issues is what we want. We scale combat operations."

"Arsenal Ready" represents some strong attributes the Workforce needs to have. Mason went through some of its key themes during the town hall

Focusing on adaptability and resilience, he said the defense landscape evolves rapidly and PBA must be ready to embrace change and remain agile. "Arsenal Ready is a mindset of preparation and innovation," said Mason. "You can't be stuck in your old ways. Big Army and senior leadership thought they knew what Pine Bluff was, what we made and what we did. They had no clue. Now they do and they know we are willing to adapt."

Looking at accountability and ownership, Mason said every member plays a vital role in mission success. "This goes back to trust. I will own my job as the commander. Accountability flows between leadership and the Workforce," he said. "If I mess up, I will own it so everyone in the Workforce is protected. All of you must do the same and own your own piece of the pie. You must be as responsible as me. Support the organization and be damn good at it."

Mason said things are going to be moving fast.

See MASON Page 4

"My priority is to ensure all of you have jobs and we bring in more people in the future. I think we are headed in that direction." -Col. Matthew C. Mason

"What does that look like? I'm only here for two years but the vision I have is solid. When the next commander comes in, all they will have to do is make small changes and keep moving forward," he said. "It only works if we are all synergizing. We need everyone's buy in. You guys were just surviving, and I want to get to where the Arsenal is thriving."

Being the Commander of Pine Bluff Arsenal is a completely different job for me, said Mason. "We need to look beyond five months. We need a group working together to look five and 10 years out all the time," he said. "My job is to look out. I may never see the fruits of my labor – maybe the very beginnings – but I am hoping to come back in 10 years and see what we put in place still here. We must help

want those open-door conversations."

The commander highlighted the *Arsenal Sentinel* as a good communications tool for him to use, for the Workforce.

"The Sentinel goes out every month. I am trying every month to inform you," said Mason. "If you read it, especially my columns, you know everything I know."

Before Mason took command, he started working on what is known now as "Arsenal Ready". "This was something I came up with about six months ago. I wanted to create something to rally around and a foundation to base everything on," he said. "This is something we can drive conversations with and ask what it means to each individual person. It was generated around are we "Arsenal Ready", are we ready to fight our nation's next war — large



Right Today

Accomplishing the mission "right today" simply means complying with regulations, policies, plans, work instructions, SOPs, and other requirements. We will not compromise the quality of products that will be used by our Warfighters and when we make these products, we will minimize impact on the environment and we will ensure no one gets hurt in the process.

Better Tomorrow

"Better tomorrow" means that every day, we will make improvements. Every time we start a manufacturing or administrative process, it should be more efficient and more environmentally friendly than it was before. Every day should be safer than the last one.

Commander's Column

Reflecting on progress, embracing the holidays: A message to the Workforce

As we approach the holiday season, I want to take a moment to thank each of you for your participation in the recent Town Hall meetings and for embracing the "Arsenal Ready" mindset. Your dedication, adaptability, and commitment to excellence has been instrumental in positioning Pine Bluff Arsenal for success as we move toward the "Arsenal of Tomorrow."

Celebrating Industry Day success

Pine Bluff Arsenal hosted a very successful Industry Day Nov. 20, welcoming several senior military leaders, including two Presidential Appointees. This event showcased the hard work and dedication of our team, pulling off such a significant event in a short amount of time. Everyone who attended was impressed with PBA's efforts and the professionalism displayed throughout the day.

Rest assured, we have done everything possible to set the conditions for industry to make their final decisions. Over the next couple of months, industry partners will submit their final proposals, and Headquarters Department of the Army (HQDA) will make the final selections. I will keep you informed as we receive updates, but for now, know that your hard work has positioned PBA for success.

Getting to know me beyond the boss

I want to take this opportunity to share a little more about myself, beyond my role as your Commander. I'm a proud father of four daughters - two stepdaughters and two biological daughters. This Thanksgiving is particularly special for me because two of them will be visiting for the first time over the Thanksgiving Holiday.

We're planning to spend time fishing, playing board



Senior leaders pose for a photo at an Industry Day held Nov. 20 at Pine Bluff Arsenal. From left are PBA Commander Col. Matthew C. Mason, Lynda Armer-Executive Director, Army Contracting Command-Rock Island, Maj. Gen. Douglas Lowery, ACC Commanding General, Hon. W. Jordan Gillis, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations, Energy, and Environment, Hon. Brent G. Ingraham, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisitions, Logistics, and Technology, Liz Miranda, Executive Director to the Commanding General for Army Materiel Command, Commanding General of Joint Munitions Command Brig. Gen. Daniel Duncan, Corey Hotle, Deputy to the Commander, Joint Munitions Command and Justin Lieber, PBA Acting Deputy to the Commander. U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY HUGH MORGAN

games, exploring Little Rock, setting up my youngest daughter's room, and seeing if we can spot the resident alligator in Tuley Lake.

Over the holidays, you may even hear me yelling at the television on Sundays because my Kansas City Chiefs are stinking it up this year—and my Kansas City Royals didn't fare much better. Football and baseball have always been a big part of my family's traditions, and even when my teams aren't doing well, it's still a great way to bond and unwind.

And now, it's my turn to support my spouse with her love for Christmas decorating. I get Halloween, and she gets Christmas. If you see me untangling lights or hanging ornaments, you'll know why! It's all part of the fun and balance that makes the holidays so special for our family.

My favorite part of the Winter Holiday is setting up a Christmas village that my daughters and I have been



The Tulley Lake alligator. Photo taken November 2025. U.S. ARMY PHOTOS SUBMITTED BY COL MATTHEW C. MASON

adding to for the past eight years. This year will be particularly fun since we weren't able to set it up over the last two years due to my assignment in Korea.

Oh, and you may even spot me wearing my favorite Christmas outfit at some point—whether I decide to wear it or make it part of my office door decorating contest.

Lastly, as some of you might know, my wife and I recently bought a "Frenchton"—a French Bulldog and Boston Terrier mix. I haven't run this by my wife yet, but I'd love you to help me decide what outfit or pajamas our dog, Arlo, should wear on

Col. Mason's "Frenchton", Arlo.







Col. Matthew C. Mason

Christmas morning. Submit your ideas to April Harris no later than Dec. 5 so I have time to order something to fit the theme! Can anyone guess what his Halloween costume was?

Reflecting and recharging

I believe in the importance of balance, and during the holidays, I make it a point to slow down, reflect, and appreciate the people around me. I encourage you to do the same. Whether it's spending time with loved ones, pursuing hobbies, or simply relaxing, take this time to recharge and come back ready to tackle the new year.

The foundation we have laid this year is strong, but our journey is far from over. When we return in the new year, I am confident that we will continue to build on our progress, driving forward toward the vision of the "Arsenal of Tomorrow." Let's come back refreshed, focused, and ready to tackle the next phase of our transformation.

Thank you for all that you do to make Pine Bluff Arsenal a vital asset to our nation's defense. I am proud to lead this team and look forward to continuing our work together in the year ahead.

Wishing you and your loved ones a joyful and restful holiday season.

"Right Today – Better Tomorrow"

"America's Arsenal – Arsenal Ready"

Recognition certificates



Certificates of Appreciation were presented by Pine Bluff Arsenal Commander Col. Matthew C. Mason to (from left) Orlando Cherry, Tamara Willis and Curtis Hadley, for their valuable support and dedication during a search and recovery operation at PBA. Their contributions to the mission exemplify professionalism and commitment to public service. U.S. ARMY PHOTOS BY RACHEL SELBY



Certificates of Achievement were presented by Pine Bluff Arsenal Commander Col. Matthew C. Mason to (from left) Justin Criswell, John Gibson and Bryan Taylor, for their outstanding support and dedicated service during a search and recovery operation at PBA. Their coordination of escorts for outside emergency responders and the victim's family ensured smooth and respectful access during the operation.



Certificates of Achievement were presented by Pine Bluff Arsenal Commander Col. Matthew C. Mason to (from left) Timothy McPherson, Thomas Harper Steven Meckfesel and Joshua Walls-Cole, for their outstanding support and dedicated service during a search and recovery operation at PBA. Their coordination of escorts for outside emergency responders and the victim's family ensured smooth and respectful access during the



Achievement Medals for Civilian Service were presented by Pine Bluff Arsenal Comander Col. Matthew C. Mason to (from left) Robert Varnell and Jeremy Keller in recognition of their critical support during a search and rescue operation at PBA. As the initial responders to the scene. Varnell and Keller established the inital United Incident Command, with the PBA Fire Department, coordinating resources and responses to ensure a smooth transition to the next

Arsenal Sentinel







Col. Matthew C. Mason, Commander Roch Byrne, Deputy to the Commander Cheryl Avery, Public Affairs Officer Rachel Selby, Sentinel Editor/Social Media Hugh Morgan, Photographer Tristian Cherry, Webmaster

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Adaptive, Resilient, and Strategic "Empowering the Military to Dominate Tomorrow's Battles"



- A Accountability: Upholding responsibility for QUALITY, SAFETY, and MISSION READINESS.
- **R** − **Readiness**: Ensuring preparedness to deliver critical materials and support on time.
- § Sustainment. Maintaining excellence in production, storage, testing & delivery of critical resources.
- **■ Efficiency**. Streamlining operations and adopting innovative technologies to maximize output.
- N Networks: Strengthening collaborations across the OIB, industry, military units, and Senior Leaders.
- A Adaptability: Embracing change and evolving processes to meet future combat needs.
- Leadership: Driving modernization efforts and setting the standard for excellence in defense logistics
- R − Resilience: Building robust systems and infrastructure to sustain operations under any conditions.
- **E** − **Excellence**: Striving for superior quality and innovation in every task.
- A = Agility: Quickly adapting to shifting demands and operational requirements.
 D = Dedication: Committing to the mission and exceeding expectations to support modernization goals.
 Y = Yield: Delivering measurable results that enhance readiness and operational effectiveness.

"America's Arsenal – Arsenal Ready"

DPW converts passenger van into emergency vehicle

By Rachel Selby

Pine Bluff Arsenal's Directorate of Public Works – Sheet Metal shop was instrumental recently in converting a 15-passenger van into a one-person ambulance for the Arsenal's Health Clinic.

"This project started out with a conversation between Tim Silvey, the supervisor for the shop, and Jessie Brust, chief of the Mobile Equipment Division for DPW," said Mark Throneberry, chief of the Operations and Maintenance Division. "She asked Tim if it could be done. He looked at it and said yes he could do it."

Silvey, who is also supervisor for DPW's Tool and Dye shop, said he talked with Doug McCurry, who is an emergency medical technician at the Health Clinic.

"They called it a chemical exposure vehicle. I asked all the questions about why they needed it. First off, they have two ambulances. McCurry explained to me it was easier to dispose of a van than an expensive ambulance if someone was ever exposed," said Silvey.

All the seats were removed from the back of the van, said Throneberry. "The guys in my shop created a removable grid where the seats go – where it will lock into place," said Silvey, who has been at PBA for 13 years.

Throneberry said the van is an impressive piece of engineering.

"Tim and the personnel in his shops designed and fabricated all the flooring and brackets to hold the gurney, and they also made it possible to convert it back to a regular van," he said. "It still needed to be a workable van. There was a lot of thought process to the project. It needed to be made into what the Health Clinic needed but when it was time to turn it in – it needed to go back to a regular van."

A backwards seat was also constructed so a paramedic could ride in the back with the patient/passenger. "There was no working blueprint on how to construct this. This was something Tim and the personnel in his shops figured out," said Throneberry. "They did all the design and fabrication. I can tell them what we want and walk away. It will get done – and done well."

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"This is probably faster than we have ever moved here," he said. "This might be a bit uncomfortable, but we need to be ready for it."

Lastly, he talked about teamwork and collaboration and how "success depends on collective action and a shared commitment to excellence."

The commander then shared what his vision is for the "Arsenal of Tomorrow".

"I have pitched this to my leadership. I see an 'industrial park' concept. We can't do it alone and we can't keep doing it the same way we have been doing it. We must invite partners to come here and help us," said Mason. 'This help can be a wide range of things and includes strengthening our partnership with industry. The big picture is us sharing our Workforce with commercial industry."

As the town hall concluded, Mason said his commitment to the Workforce was to have an open dialogue and share information. "If you want to come see me, come see me. I want to support your success and well-being," he said.



Pine Bluff Arsenal's Directorate of Public Works - Sheet Metal Shop recently turned a passenger van into a one-person ambulance. The purpose of the van is is to transport anyone exposed to a hazardous chemical. Spencer Silvey, on gurney, demonstrates how the van will be used. U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY CAITLIN THOMAS-DPW

Years of Service certificates presented



Pine Bluff Arsenal Commander Col. Matthew C. Mason presented certificates for years of service at a recent staff meeting to (from left) David Salisbury (five years), Brandon Robinson (20 years), Christopher McPherson (10 years), and Teresa Coins (five years). Others recognized during November for their years of service were Dillon Voss (five years), Danny Tuggle (15 years), Dustin Summers (five years), Thomas M. Johnson (10 years), Laura M. Dickerson (five years) and Marvin Davis (10 years). U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY RACHEL SELBY

BEALLYOU CAN BE.

EAP Corner

A season for safety

Courtesy of Pine Bluff Arsenal Army Substance Abuse Program/Employee Assistance Program Office

December is recognized as National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month. This month is dedicated to raising awareness about the dangers of impaired driving and promoting safe alternatives to driving under the influence. Every U.S. President since 1981 has proclaimed December as National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month.

"A Season for Safety" is this month's focus on raising awareness about the dangers of impaired driving and promoting safe driving practices, especially during the holiday season.

Campaigns like "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" and "If You Feel Different, You Drive Different, Drive High Get a DUI" will be active during this time to encourage responsible choices and deter impaired driving.

December is a season of celebration, but it's also a time to reflect on the choices we make behind the wheel. This nation-wide campaign is a powerful reminder impaired driving, whether caused by alcohol, drugs, or distractions is 100 percent preventable.

By raising awareness, encouraging smart decisions, and promoting safer roads, we can help save lives.

What is impaired driving?

Impaired driving means operating a vehicle while your ability to do so is compromised. This can include:

- Alcohol impairment
- Drug impairment (illegal, prescription, or over-the-counter drugs)
 - Fatigue
 - Distracted driving (texting, eating, adjusting GPS)

Even a small amount of alcohol or one missed night of sleep can affect reaction time, judgment, and coordination, putting everyone on the road at risk.

The alarming numbers

- Every day, 37 people die in the U.S. due to drunk-driving crashes, that's one life every 39 minutes.
- December sees a sharp increase in impaired driving incidents due to holiday gatherings.
- In 2022, 13,524 people were killed in drunk-driving crashes. Drugs other than alcohol (both legal and illegal) are involved in about 16 percent of motor vehicle crashes. These numbers aren't just statistics; they represent real families affected by one preventable decision.

Why December matters

During December, people travel more frequently to:

- Holiday parties and gatherings
- End-of-year celebrations
- Shopping trips
- Long-distance family visits

Unfortunately, these occasions often involve alcohol, and with winter weather and shorter daylight hours, driving conditions are already more dangerous. That's why National Impaired Driving Prevention Month serves as a timely call to action (*Hauber, Megan, 2025*).

The consequences of impaired driving

Impaired driving doesn't just pose a safety risk; it can change

NAME OFF SYM A Season for Safety В 1 L В 1/1/ 0 Z M X C D Ν S U Н R G C K 0 Ν Т Q C Н Q П C S U F B D C R P 0 K U M G Α D G M M D Q R C 0 X Н E Т S Ε P V E Z S 0 A D L K 1 D DECEMBER SEASON SAFETY DRUGGED DISTRACTED DRIVING HOLIDAY IMPAIRED PREVENTION ACCIDENTS ROAD RESPONSIBILITY

lives forever. Consequences include:

Legal penalties:

- · Fines and legal fees
- Loss of driver's license
- Jail time
- Permanent criminal record

cord Personal and emotional

- Injuring or killing others
- Guilt and trauma
- Lost employment opportunities
- Higher insurance costs Devastating loss:
- Families losing loved ones
- Community grieving preventable tragedies

Prevention starts with you The most effective way to prevent impaired driving is to plan before you go out. Here's how:

- Designate a sober driver before any celebration
- Use rideshare apps, taxis, or public transportation
- Host alcohol-free events
- Take keys away from someone who's not sober
- · Stay overnight or offer a

place to sleep for guests

If you feel different, you drive differently, even buzzed driving is dangerous driving. Stay safe this December! Learn how to prevent drunk, drugged, and distracted driving. Safe driving tips, teen driver talk guide, and community support ideas. Let's protect lives this holiday season. (Hauber, Megan, 2025)

National Impaired Driving Prevention Month is more than a reminder, it's a call to responsibility, awareness, and kindness. Before you drive this holiday season, pause and ask: "Am I in the right state of mind to protect everyone on the road?"

The best gift you can give this December is safety for yourself and for others. The Army Substance Abuse Program/Employee Assistance staff are here to help. We offer you a safe and confidential place to discuss concerns, challenges, and strategies for managing difficulties in your life.

We are in Building 13-040 and can be reached at 870-540-3094. The Careline number is 870-550-2653. We are here when you need us.

The ASAP/EAP staff also want to wish you and your family Happy Holidays and please be safe.





DPW Spotlight Celerating Our Veterans



Pine Bluff Arsenal's Directorate of Public Works - Operations and Maintenance Division Chief Mark Throneberry, Caitlin Thomas, and the O&M supervisors - Brad Dobbins, Kevin Snyder, Donny Pumphrey, Mark Brown, Tim Silvey and Darren Edwards, provided the O&M Veterans a breakfast and their veterans certificates Nov. 6. Just a simple way to show our appreciation for their military service. Pictured left to right: Michael Ashcraft, Drue Owens, Michael Hancock, Jeffery Daigle, Dillon Voss, Brad Sanders, and Jerry Hudson. Not pictured: Steve Redman, Blake Henson, Michael Dorn, William Moore, and Phillip Reed U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY CAITLIN THOM-AS-DPW



Pine Bluff Arsenal's Safety Committee is asking for employee nominations and are available to answer any questions about the Safety Award. The PBA Employee Safety Award Nomination form can be accessed multiple ways, either by completing PBA form 385-17, clicking PBA Employee Safety Award Nomination or by scanning the QR code on your phone.

Being Safe this Thanksgiving

Holiday Safety Tips

Travel

Flying: Pack light, most airlines charge extra for checked bags, use a carry-on to avoid the cost and the risk of bags getting lost

Book flights early to avoid higher costs or sold out flights

Arrive early to be sure you won't miss your flight, chances of getting another flight is unlikely

Driving: Leave early in the morning to avoid traffic

If traveling through a big city, use a traffic app to check traffic conditions



Pack extra snacks and water for the trip to keep from frequent stops

Get vehicle maintenance done before you leave check tire pressure, fluids and fill your tank before leaving

Cooking

Wash your hands and surfaces often with warm soapy water

Seperate foods, never cross-contaminate

Always cook foods to the correct temperature, check them with a food thermometer



Keep raw turkey separated from all other foods

Fry a thawed turkey outside only, and away from your home and do not overfill or overheat the oil in the turkey fryer.

Never leave cooking food unattended on the stove.

Refrigerate promptly if not eating right away

Fire

Keep all flamable items away from the stove and oven.



Keep a fire extinguisher in the kitchen in case of emergency, teach your family how to use it

Never wear loose fitting clothing when cooking, open sleeves could ignite and catch fire from a flame or hot burner

Have a "kids-free" zone of at least three feet around the stove and areas where hot foods and drinks are prepared or carried

Have smoke alarms on every level of your home; test them monthly and replace batteries twice a year and replace alarms that are 10+ years old

Place burning candles away from flammable items, and blow them out before leaving the room

ASAP/EAP Celebrates PBA Veterans





A cake was provided to honor Veterans across Pine Bluff Arsenal during a Veterans Celebration at the Arsenal's Training Center.



Pine Bluff Arsenal Commander Col. Matthew C. Mason and Tyler Fassino, a Quality Assurance Specialist (Ammunition Surveillance) with the Arsenal's Directorate of Material Management, cut the cake during the Arsenal's Veterans Celebration Nov. 13. The Arsenal's Army Substance Abuse Program and Employee Assistance Program Office coordinated the event, which celebrated all Veterans across the installation. The event culminated in cake and other treats for everyone who gathered. The ASAP/EAP office also had giveaways during the event. U.S. ARMY PHOTOS BY RACHEL SELBY



Pine Bluff Arsenal Commander Col. Matthew C. Mason speaks during a Veterans celebration program at the Arsenal's Training Center Nov. 13.

Fall Fest 2025







U.S. ARMY
PHOTOS
BY HUGH MORGAN
AND RACHEL SELBY











Fall Fest 2025























Recognition certificates



Certificates of appreciation were presented recently by Pine Bluff Arsenal Commander Col. Matthew C. Mason for valuable support and steadfast dedication during search and recovery operations to Joseph Rotton, Raymond Norwood, Jahan Montazari, Jason Mills, Judge Parker, Joseph Moring and Clayton Bewley. U.S. ARMY PHOTOS BY HUGH MORGAN



Achievement Medals for Civilian Service were presented recently by Pine Bluff Arsenal Commander Col. Matthew C. Mason for vital contributions during search and recovery operations to David Hoots, Heather Kimzey, Tyler Berry and Phillip Tallent.



Certificates of appreciation were presented recently by Pine Bluff Arsenal Commander Col. Matthew C. Mason for valuable support and unwavering dedication during search and recovery operations to Jennifer Reynolds, Cheryl D. Avery and Rachel C. Selby.



Certificates of achievement were presented recently by Pine Bluff Arsenal Commander Col. Matthew C. Mason for critical support and outstanding service during search and recovery operations to Paul Wade, Michael Harrington, Nicholas Garrison, Mark Rongey and Wes Sparks.



Certificates of Achievement were presented recently by Pine Bluff Arsenal Commander Col. Matthew C. Mason for outstanding support and dedicated service during search and recovery operations to Jerry D. West, Shane A. Hubanks and Stephen M. Johnson.



Achievement Medals for Civilian Service were presented recently by Pine Bluff Arsenal Commander Col. Matthew C. Mason for valuable support and steadfast dedication during search and recovery operations to James J. Walter and Celena G. Harbison.



Happy
Thanksgiving