

Syracuse University

SURFACE at Syracuse University

Chancellor's Office (2004 - 2013)

University Administration

11-19-2020

International Thanksgiving

Kent Syverud
Syracuse University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://surface.syr.edu/chancellor>



Part of the [Education Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Syverud, Kent, "International Thanksgiving" (2020). *Chancellor's Office (2004 - 2013)*. 228.
<https://surface.syr.edu/chancellor/228>

This Speech (Text) is brought to you for free and open access by the University Administration at SURFACE at Syracuse University. It has been accepted for inclusion in Chancellor's Office (2004 - 2013) by an authorized administrator of SURFACE at Syracuse University. For more information, please contact surface@syr.edu.

Syracuse University

Remarks by Chancellor Kent Syverud

Delivered on November 19, 2020

Location: Via Zoom

Remarks: International Thanksgiving

The Chancellor was introduced by Juan Tavares, Director of Slutzker Center for International Services

Good evening and welcome! Dr. Chen and I are pleased that you are joining us this evening. This is the 36th International Thanksgiving celebration held at Syracuse University. But this is the first virtual Thanksgiving dinner. While we can't sit down together as we had hoped, we are grateful that you are here.

Dr. Chen and I recognize that this has been a particularly challenging year for everyone. A pandemic is hard enough. Enduring a pandemic while being in a new place, a new country, and with new people is even harder. Yet every Thanksgiving, no matter our challenges, we pause to remember our blessings. The blessing of friends. The blessing of having food to eat. The blessings of being part of a community of learning. We are so grateful tonight to remember these blessings and to celebrate you as part of our Orange family.

Tonight's International Thanksgiving dinner was first organized by T.E. Koshy, a member of the Syracuse University community for 45 years. Koshy founded the evangelical chaplaincy at Hendricks Chapel and served as its chaplain. Koshy was originally from Kerala, India, and arrived on campus during the turbulent 1960s.

Koshy said he felt like he was caught in the crossfire as an international student. Some of you may relate to that feeling. The experience inspired him to devote much of his life to caring for Syracuse University's international students. Though Koshy is no longer with us, tonight's Thanksgiving Dinner is part of his legacy. His son Jay, who now serves as our Evangelical Christian chaplain, will deliver the invocation tonight.

In this pandemic year, I have learned to treasure simple gifts. Small acts of kindness. Moments of sunshine. Even a few minutes by telephone or Facetime with

my family far away. Being with you tonight is such a gift. Wherever you are from, wherever you are sharing this meal tonight, Ruth and I reach out to you and thank you for being Orange.

Warmest wishes for a great Thanksgiving.

###