November 2026

Greetings!

This year is flying by. The holiday season is upon us. It does come every year at this time, why am I not prepared, maybe some year I will be prepared.

There are a great number of things to be grateful for this 2026 tennis year. The USTA Kentucky State tournaments produced some great winners. Further, many Kentucky teams did well at the Southern and Nationals. I had the privilege of witnessing some great tennis at numerous events and played in several. What is always a treat for me is to see most of USTA Kentucky events played on public courts. Seventy percent (70%) of all tennis in the USA is played on public courts. Be grateful for your public courts. Let your civil leaders know of your gratitude for those public courts. Also, let them know that USTA has money to help construct, reconstruct, refurbish, provide lights, etc. for those public courts. And hit some balls on your public courts.

I am grateful for the USTA Kentucky staff. Without them we would not have the opportunity and privilege of playing the game we all love. Many of the staff I have had the pleasure of knowing and working with for over a decade. And I am grateful for their dedication to their jobs.

In playing and visiting USTA events I have met and spoken with volunteers. I am grateful for everyone and anyone who has and does volunteer to work USTA events. Without these volunteers there would be no events. When you can please volunteer to work an event. Doing so gives one insight into what it takes to make our tournaments and events run smoothly. Big thank you to all who volunteer their time to any organization.

I am grateful to whomever was responsible for the weather this year as most events were without bad weather! Whoever you are you did an incredible job.

I am grateful for the USTA and for the 58 years, yes 58 years, I have been playing USTA events all over this country.

I am grateful for the numerous teaching pros who have worked with me, some were paid, more gave me advise free of charge. Many have become friends, several have played on the women's tour, and some are good friends who I get to spend time with at the COCO and Cincinnati tournaments.

I grateful for the friends I have made playing USTA. Tennis is a great sport. And tennis people are the best people. Remember, those who play tennis live 9.7 years longer than those who do not play.

So, in this season when we all should be grateful, I encourage all to show how grateful you are by volunteering with USTA or any organization or donating to Raise a Racquet or getting involved with USTA KY or advocating for more public courts. The statistics are clear, the youth who play tennis do better in school and the adults who play live longer. We should all be grateful for that.

May you have a wonderful Thanksgiving full of love, health, family and friends!

See you on the court!

Ellen

