War heroes are revered for their acts of bravery in times of combat — and Chips, the shepherd-collie-husky crossbreed, is no different. During World War II, the Wren family donated Chips to Dogs for Defense shortly after the U.S. joined the war. Of the 40,000 dogs donated to the corps, more than 10,000 were selected to participate in the program after training.

Chips was shipped off with his handler, Private Rowell, to French Morocco. Following the meeting, Rowell and Chips went to Sicily to support the conflict in Britain. After his service, Chips returned to live with the Wren family. On U.S. soil, he was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, the Silver Star, and the Purple Heart. These honors were eventually stripped by the Army after a policy barred animals from earning the same medals as people, but his platoon awarded him the Theater Ribbon and battle stars for his eight campaigns. To the men Chips saved, medals didn’t make him a hero — his selfless actions did.

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Following the meeting, Rowell and Chips went to Sicily to support the invasion as part of Operation Husky, which was where Chips earned his hero status. On July 10, 1943, Allied soldiers were attacked on the beach by an enemy machine gun team. Chips ran for the hut where the barrage of bullets was coming from and tore into the enemies. His handler described hearing rapid noise and seeing Chips gripping one of the men by his throat until Rowell ordered the dog down. Three more men came out of the hut, their hands raised. Chips left the fight with burns and a scalp wound, but his actions saved the lives of all the men in his platoon, and later that day, he discovered more enemy soldiers.

On Jan. 15, 2018 — 75 years after the Casablanca Conference — Chips posthumously awarded the People’s Dispensary for Sick Animals Dickin Medal, the highest award an animal can achieve for their time in military conflict in Britain. After his service, Chips returned to live with the Wren family. On U.S. soil, he was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, the Silver Star, and the Purple Heart. These honors were eventually stripped by the Army after a policy barred animals from earning the same medals as people, but his platoon awarded him the Theater Ribbon and battle stars for his eight campaigns. To the men Chips saved, medals didn’t make him a hero — his selfless actions did.

For many people, Thanksgiving is a great time to recharge and appreciate the good things in life. These days, it can feel like you can’t catch your breath or sit back and relax without having to worry about some thing or another. No matter where you turn, there is something. Even as we try to live our lives to the best of our ability, it remains important to take a moment to give thanks. As you gather for dinner, whether it’s Thanksgiving dinner, a Sunday meal, or just a moment you have free, take some time to look around the room at the people you care about most. Share your appreciation with them and what you’re thankful for. Expressing gratitude not only feels great; it makes everyone else feel great, too! Let them know how much they matter. If they’re not in the room, give them a call or write them a letter. Not only does this simple gesture strengthen your bond with them, it’s one of those conversations that keeps families close.

Thanksgiving is also a great time to give back to the community. While it’s always important to donate your time or money whenever you can — and we’re big proponents of giving back to the community here at Herrman & Herman — the holidays highlight just how essential it is. There are many organizations and nonprofits throughout the state that are always looking for an extra hand or donations, from Habitat for Humanity to the Coastal Bend Food Bank.

When you give back to the community, whether through volunteering or donating, you leave a lasting impact. Not only do you help people who genuinely need it, but you help set a positive example that others can follow.

What’s the best way to give back? The first step is to find an organization you want to be involved with. You can find nonprofits and charities through online searches, local churches, city hall, or asking around. Then, it’s just a matter of reaching out, giving them a call or visit, and asking how you can lend a hand.

Volunteering, for instance, is a great way to get a sense of what’s going on locally. Through volunteering, you can have a closer look at the strengths and weaknesses of your community. Then, you can work to eliminate those weaknesses and further strengthen the strengths.

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Giving back through volunteering comes with other benefits, as well. It’s not just a great way to have a positive impact on your community. Volunteering can have a positive impact on your health, too. Some research even suggests that people who give back are all around happier than those who don’t. It can elevate your mood, reduce stress, and help you develop deeper social connections — all contributing to a healthier heart and mind.

From all of us at Herrman & Herman, we hope you have a wonderful Thanksgiving and find a little time to give back.
ENJOY THESE 6 AUTUMN ACTIVITIES
FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

Throughout November, everyone is eagerly looking forward to Thanksgiving, Black Friday, and Cyber Monday, but you shouldn’t let the rest of the month slip past you! Enjoy these other fall activities with the whole family.

Homemade Caramel Apples
Homemade treats are no doubt far better than their store-bought counterparts. Try your hand at making your own caramel apples for the whole family to enjoy. You can also add a number of toppings to keep things up, such as nuts, white or milk chocolate, coconut, sprinkles, or pecans.

Backyard Bonfire
During these cold months, you may be tempted to stay indoors, but heading outside for a bonfire is a great way to spend time with your family while enjoying the brisk weather. If you have a fire pit in your backyard, now is the perfect time to take advantage of it by bundling up with some hot chocolate and s’mores.

Autumn Arrangements
It’s time to get crafty! Creating your own fall arrangements will ensure that your home has the seasonal decorations you want. Making beautiful fall flower arrangements for your kitchen table or wreaths for your front door to greet guests will create the desired autumn vibe you’ve been searching for.

Movie Night
Gather your loved ones in the living room with popcorn, blankets, and a great film. Make the most of your autumn evenings by cozying up and spending quality time with each other while watching some family holiday favorites, like “A Charlie Brown Thanksgiving” or the Thanksgiving comedy-drama “Pieces of April.”

Home-Cooked Food
When autumn rolls around, pie and warm cider may be high on your list of tasty treats you’re eagerly anticipating. This fall, encourage your family to take part in making annual goodies and sharing them with your neighbors. Nothing warms the heart more than receiving a loaf of freshly baked pumpkin bread during these increasingly cold days.

Knitted Scarves
If you’re handy with knitting needles, now is the season to put them to work. Hand-knitted scarves are great gifts to give throughout the fall and winter, and you can also make it a family activity! Take some time to teach your kids how to knit and crochet to create scarves of their very own.

Thank you to Herrman & Herrman for taking care of me and my family during our accident. We will definitely come back when needed.

-Emms A.

Very happy that I have Christian representing me. He always replies to my calls and explains everything to me.

-Nicole L.

I have always called them when I needed a lawyer! Marina is the best!

-krisi B.

I was in my first car accident and was injured and was not having any luck with the insurance company of the driver that hit me. I saw the local bus going through town with Herrman & Herrman on it, instantly reached out for help and had an appointment the very next day, the day of the appointment they immediately had evaluated by their chiropractor, which was so close to my home to help relieve the pain from my accident. Herrman & Herrman has been so helpful and understanding to my situation, they were even able to communicate with me through email which was very important to me as I cannot answer my phone during work Gayle was prompt at keeping me updated with my case and my attorney William Privette was very descriptive and gave me peace of mind. Thank you all for your help. No. 1!

-Jennifer B.

Manual labor can be dangerous and sometimes deadly. In Texas, oil and gas drilling is life. It is one of the more common and well-compensated jobs that a Texan can do. But with a high-paying job comes risk. Accidents are common in this line of work, and sometimes those accidents turn into disasters. We all remember the British Petroleum offshore catastrophe in 2010. So how common are workplace accidents at oil- and gas-drilling sites? What is done to prevent this? And what do you do if you or a loved one is involved in a workplace accident?

Common Causes of Drilling Injuries: Because people are working with heavy machinery and highly explosive chemicals and gases, employers attempt to implement extensive training to minimize these accidents. But most of the time, injuries happen due to negligence or mistakes made by other people at the job site.

While it is almost impossible to prevent all accidents, the ones you can try to stop are the careless or reckless actions by employers and other coworkers. According to an article by Fuelfix, 80 percent of offshore accidents are preventable, as they occur due to human error. “Four of every five major offshore accidents are caused by human errors, highlighting the need to make safety the backbone of any offshore company’s corporate culture,” an Anadarko Petroleum executive said while speaking with Fuelfix.

What Should You Do If You Are Injured on the Job? The first thing you must do is report the accident to your supervisor. You want to make sure the event is well-documented. This may be difficult, because some employees do not want to be seen as complainers. However, if you are seriously hurt, reporting the event is the only way that any help will be offered to you.

Sometimes your accident may not be caused by your employer but by a third party. For instance, you may become hurt by another company while working. While you would still file a claim with your employer, your rights may be different. The laws vary whether it is a workers’ compensation issue or if a third party is at fault.

A SIMPLE BRINE FOR SUCCULENT TURKEY
No matter how you cook your bird for Thanksgiving, it will taste better if you brine it beforehand. Break out your biggest cooler and some ice to ensure that your guests rave about your turkey.

INGREDIENTS
- 3/4 cup plus 2 tablespoons kosher salt
- 3/4 cup sugar
- 1 teaspoon black peppercorns
- 1/4 teaspoon crushed red pepper flakes
- 1/14 teaspoon fennel seeds (optional)

DIRECTIONS
1. In a large stock pot, bring salt, sugar, and 4 cups water to a boil. Stir until all ingredients are dissolved.
2. Turn off heat and add remaining ingredients. Place brine in the fridge, uncovered, until cold.
3. Add 6 quarts cold water to brine. Add turkey and submerge completely. Brine chilled for up to 72 hours.

THE DANGERS OF OIL FIELD WORK
WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU’RE INJURED ON THE JOB