

Many advances have been made in fostering the full participation by disabled persons in American society. Our Nation's educational system and training and rehabilitation programs have enabled millions of people with disabilities to become skilled, productive workers. The ongoing removal of architectural and other barriers in housing, transportation, and the workplace is permitting more and more disabled people to join the labor force as well as the mainstream of American life. Advances in technology are also enabling persons with disabilities to utilize their strengths and talents to the fullest. And many employers—recognizing all that these individuals have to offer—are enthusiastically hiring workers with disabilities.

Unfortunately, despite these advances—as well as the major gains we have made in lowering the Nation's unemployment rate—it has been estimated that only one-third of all disabled Americans of working age are currently employed. Yet millions of Americans with disabilities are both willing and able to take their rightful places in America's work force. As a Nation that takes justifiable pride in the unparalleled opportunities we have provided for all our citizens, we must continue working to enhance employment opportunities for persons with disabilities.

The Congress, by Joint Resolution approved August 11, 1945, as amended (36 U.S.C. 155), has called for the designation of the month of October of each year as "National Disability Employment Awareness Month." This special month is a time for all Americans to join together in recognizing the unlimited potential of persons with disabilities and in renewing our determination to provide increased employment opportunities for them.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE BUSH, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim the month of October 1989 as National Disability Employment Awareness Month. I call upon all public officials, employers, and private citizens of this country to continue to help guarantee equal employment opportunities and the full rights and privileges of citizenship for disabled Americans.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this thirteenth day of October, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and eighty-nine, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and fourteenth.

GEORGE BUSH

**Proclamation 6047 of October 13, 1989**

### **White Cane Safety Day, 1989**

*By the President of the United States of America  
A Proclamation*

The white cane is a device that all should recognize, for it is the staff that gives blind individuals greater freedom of movement as they pursue their daily activities. The white cane helps visually impaired persons avoid physical hazards and barriers, thereby enabling its users to travel more safely in the public environment. It is also a tangible re-

minder to all Americans that those who are blind possess the ability and the desire to lead independent lives.

Each year, White Cane Safety Day provides us with an occasion to renew our determination to eliminate barriers that continue to hinder the full participation of blind Americans in our society, especially those barriers created by discrimination or lack of understanding. It is a day to acknowledge the accomplishments of people who are blind and to reaffirm our support for efforts that will enhance their mobility.

In acknowledgment of the white cane and all it symbolizes, the Congress, by joint resolution approved October 6, 1964, has authorized the President to designate October 15 of each year as "White Cane Safety Day."

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE BUSH, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim October 15, 1989, as White Cane Safety Day. I urge all Americans to show respect for those who carry the white cane and to honor, through appropriate ceremonies and activities, their many achievements.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this thirteenth day of October, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and eighty-nine, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and fourteenth.

GEORGE BUSH

**Proclamation 6048 of October 16, 1989**

### **World Food Day, 1989 and 1990**

*By the President of the United States of America  
A Proclamation*

Each day, millions of people around the world face the frightening specter of hunger and malnutrition. These problems are devastating to developing countries, where they cause immeasurable human suffering—especially among children. As an expression of our Nation's continued commitment to ending world hunger, the United States joins 150 other countries in observing World Food Day.

The American people, through a number of government-sponsored and private food relief programs, have responded generously to the needs of those affected by famine and natural disasters. During the year that ended in June, the United States sent over five million metric tons of wheat, rice, and coarse grains to countries in need—more than all other contributing nations combined. The United States is also helping to alleviate hunger and malnutrition in poor countries by encouraging economic growth and private sector development.

Fortunately, the need for global food donations abated during the past year as drought ended in many countries. In most of Africa, the agricultural situation improved. Yet widespread starvation continues in Sudan and Mozambique, mainly due to violent civil conflict and the displacement of millions of people.