Through the OAS Charter, members of the inter-American community also agreed to "promote, by cooperative action, their economic, social, and cultural development." To help achieve this goal, I have proposed the Enterprise for the Americas Initiative, which will promote free and fair trade, investment, debt reduction, and growth, as well as environmental protection, in Latin America and the Caribbean. In addition, we will implement the commitments of the Cartagena Declaration. Illicit drug trafficking and violence pose a grave threat to the stability of nations as well as to the freedom and safety of millions of individuals throughout the Americas. The United States remains firmly committed to working with other members of the inter-American community in the areas of interdiction, law enforcement, and crop substitution.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE BUSH, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim Sunday, April 14, 1991, as Pan American Day and the week of April 14 through April 20, 1991, as Pan American Week. I urge the Governors of the fifty States and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and officials of other areas under the flag of the United States, to honor these observances with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 17th day of April, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and fifteenth.

GEORGE BUSH

Proclamation 6272 of April 17, 1991

Jewish Heritage Week, 1991 and 1992

By the President of the United States of America
A Proclamation

The Jewish people share a rich and vibrant heritage, one that has endured through the ages, even through exile and dark periods of systematic persecution. That great and abiding heritage has had a profound influence on the character of the United States. Thus, it is with great pleasure that millions of Americans join with their Jewish friends and neighbors in celebrating Jewish Heritage Week.

The American way of life—indeed, the development of all Western civilization—has been shaped, in large part, by the laws and teachings recorded in the Old Testament and Judaic tradition. Our forefathers' declaration of the unalienable rights of individuals was rooted in the biblically supported belief that all people are created equal, in the image of the Almighty. The principles of ethical and moral conduct that form the basis of American civil order and the foundation of any truly free and just society stem from the commandments given by God to Moses. Accordingly, through their efforts to preserve Judaic law and tradition, American Jews help to ensure that our Nation's moral heritage is continually strengthened and renewed. For example, the traditional observance of Shavuot, which recalls the giving of the law on Mount Sinai,

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offers a powerful reminder of the relationship between respect for the word of God and the preservation of civil peace and liberty.

Through the observance of Shavuot and other special days, Jews affirm both their faith and their identity as a people. As the recent celebration of Passover reminds us, that faith has been tested, and proved, time and again in the history of the Jewish people.

The Jewish people have been subjected to a number of great trials during this century alone. On Yom HaShoah, Holocaust Memorial Day, Jews recall the Nazi atrocities that claimed the lives of 6 million of their fellow Jews, as well as the lives of millions of other men, women, and children in Europe during World War II. By joining in this commemoration, and in remembrance of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, we are reminded of the enduring faith and courage of the Jewish people.

Jews have played a vital role in our country's history since colonial times. Many were active in supporting the Revolutionary War and in the settling of new lands and cities during America's westward expansion. Jewish men, women, and children also formed part of each great wave of immigration to these shores. Today, Jews continue to contribute in virtually every aspect of American life.

As we celebrate the many contributions that Jewish men and women have made to our Nation, we also reaffirm the deep friendship between the United States and Israel. The founding of the modern State of Israel following the Holocaust is further testimony to the faith, determination, and industry of the Jewish people.

The Congress, by House Joint Resolution 134, has designated the week of April 14 through April 21, 1991, and the week of May 3 through May 10, 1992, as "Jewish Heritage Week" and has authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of these occasions.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE BUSH, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim the weeks of April 14 through April 21, 1991, and May 3 through May 10, 1992 as Jewish Heritage Week. I encourage all Americans to join in observing these occasions with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this seventeenth day of April, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and fifteenth.

GEORGE BUSH

Proclamation 6273 of April 18, 1991

National Education First Week, 1991

By the President of the United States of America
A Proclamation

Labor and learning precede every inch of human progress. That is why improving our Nation's educational system must be a priority for all