

President Reagan said: “Above all, we must realize that no arsenal or no weapon in the arsenals of the world is so formidable as the will and moral courage of free men and women. It is a weapon our adversaries in today’s world do not have. It is a weapon that we as Americans do have.”; These words carry forward today as we continue to push for democratic freedoms and human rights around the world.

The Congress, by Joint Resolution approved July 17, 1959 (73 Stat. 212), has authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation designating the third week in July of each year as “Captive Nations Week.”;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim July 18 through July 24, 2004, as Captive Nations Week. I call upon the people of the United States to observe this week with appropriate ceremonies and activities and to reaffirm their commitment to all those seeking liberty, justice, and self-determination.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this sixteenth day of July, in the year of our Lord two thousand four, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-ninth.

GEORGE W. BUSH

**Proclamation 7803 of July 23, 2004**

**Parents’ Day, 2004**

*By the President of the United States of America*

*A Proclamation*

Parents are a source of hope, help, stability, and love for their children. Parents also teach children important values like courage, compassion, self-reliance, reverence, integrity, and respect for others. As we celebrate Parents’ Day, we recognize the important contributions of America’s parents and renew our commitment to standing with our families to help them raise healthy, responsible children.

Parenthood is a privilege and a great joy that comes with great responsibility. Mothers and fathers play the vital roles of provider, nurturer, disciplinarian, counselor, advocate, educator, and motivator. They offer unconditional love and help their children to realize their dreams. As parents work to send the right messages to our young people, they shape the character and future of our Nation.

To help strengthen American families and encourage parents’ active involvement in the lives of their children, my Administration is committed to promoting healthy marriages and responsible fatherhood. We are providing information to parents on early childhood education and development and supporting community-based parenting education programs. We are also providing parents with more options in educating their children and more opportunities to adopt young boys and girls in need.

On Parents’ Day, we honor America’s mothers and fathers for their guidance, support, and unconditional love for their children. The tire-

less efforts of parents, stepparents, adoptive parents, and foster parents make our Nation stronger and help build a better future for all our citizens.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. 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 and consistent with Public Law 103–362, as amended, do hereby proclaim Sunday, July 25, 2004, as Parents’ Day. I encourage all Americans to express their love, respect, and appreciation to parents across our Nation. I also call upon citizens to observe this day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-third day of July, in the year of our Lord two thousand four, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-ninth.

GEORGE W. BUSH

#### **Proclamation 7804 of July 26, 2004**

### **Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, 2004**

*By the President of the United States of America*

*A Proclamation*

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) marked a milestone in our Nation’s quest to guarantee the civil rights of all citizens. The ADA is a success story that has strengthened the foundation for an America where we celebrate the talents and abilities of every person.

On the 14th anniversary of this landmark legislation, we recognize the important progress the ADA has brought about for our citizens and our Nation. Today, individuals with disabilities are better able to develop meaningful skills, engage in productive work, and participate fully in society. Yet, our work is not finished. The millions of Americans with disabilities continue to face both physical barriers and false perceptions. Removing those obstacles requires a determined and focused commitment to the goals of the ADA: equality of opportunity, economic self-sufficiency, full participation, and independent living.

My Administration continues its work to achieve these goals. My New Freedom Initiative, announced in February 2001, sets out a comprehensive strategy for the full integration of people with disabilities into all aspects of American life. The Department of Justice has established the ADA Business Connection to build partnerships between the business community and people with disabilities. This program helps increase voluntary compliance with the ADA and brings individuals with disabilities into the mainstream of our economy. Through Project Civic Access, we have reached agreements with cities and towns across the country to ensure that people with disabilities are integrated into community life. In addition, I have signed executive orders that remove barriers to equal opportunities faced by people with disabilities.