

regarding their capabilities. Our society needs the know-how, experience, judgment and eagerness to serve that these citizens bring to the job.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GERALD R. FORD, President of the United States of America, do hereby designate the month of May, 1976, as Older Americans Month.

I urge all State and Area Agencies on Aging and other private and public organizations that are related to the field of aging to observe this month by arranging public forums where the Bicentennial Charter for Older Americans will be discussed and recommendations developed for implementation.

I urge all organizations concerned with employment to observe this month with ceremonies and programs designed to increase employment opportunities for older workers.

I urge all organizations engaged in the delivery of services to persons in need to observe this month by increased emphasis on efforts to recruit, train and place older volunteers.

And I urge all Americans to observe this month by focusing on the achievements of older persons and supporting programs to make the last days of life the best days for increasing numbers of our older Americans.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this fifth day of April, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred seventy-six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundredth.

GERALD R. FORD

EDITORIAL NOTE: The President's remarks of Apr. 5, 1976, on signing Proclamation 4426, are printed in the Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents (vol. 12, p. 575).

Proclamation 4427

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April 8, 1976

World Trade Week, 1976

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

When our Nation's founders met two hundred years ago in Philadelphia to declare our independence, they categorized in unambiguous terms the reasons that compelled them to embark upon such a momentous and irrevocable course. "Cutting off our Trade with all Parts of the World" was high on the list of grievances.

The patriots who declared independence in 1776 set the United States on the path to leadership in the interdependent world of 1976. Their action enabled us, over a period of two centuries, to construct a firm foundation of commercial alliances with nations around the globe. Last year our two-way trade with other nations amounted to \$204 billion, with a record trade surplus of more than \$11 billion.

America's performance in the world marketplace is a true measure of the quality of American products, the extent of American ingenuity, and the dedication of American labor and industry to international commerce. Trade has been indispensable to our economic growth, to the greater well-being of our citizens, and to peaceful

progress in our relationships abroad. It remains indispensable as we look to the new horizons of our third century.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GERALD R. FORD, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim the week beginning May 16, 1976, as World Trade Week. I call upon all Americans to join with business, labor, agricultural, educational, professional and civic groups, and public officials at all levels of Government, in observing World Trade Week with appropriate activities and ceremonies.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this eighth day of April, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred seventy-six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundredth.

GERALD R. FORD

Proclamation 4428

April 9, 1976

Pan American Day and Pan American Week, 1976

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Eighty-six years ago the International Union of the American Republics, the predecessor of today's Organization of American States, was founded. During the long history of this distinguished international body—the oldest of the world's regional organizations—it has made important contributions to the preservation of peace and the promotion of social and economic welfare in our hemisphere. The purposes of the OAS remain the same, but conditions in the world are changing and new adaptations are required. Last year the nations of the hemisphere agreed on an updating and strengthening of the Inter-American Treaty of Reciprocal Assistance. The United States strongly supports the common effort presently underway to modernize and revitalize the Organization of American States, the key organ of the Inter-American System. We hope this important effort will be crowned by success and that it will continue to serve as an example of international cooperation.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GERALD R. FORD, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim Wednesday, April 14, 1976, as Pan American Day, and the week beginning April 11 and ending April 17 as Pan American Week, and I call upon the Governors of the fifty States, the Governor of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and appropriate officials of all other areas under the flag of the United States to issue similar proclamations.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this ninth day of April, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred seventy-six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundredth.

GERALD R. FORD