

can be proud of what America has accomplished. We are at peace. Our Nation and our way of life endure. The sacrifices of 200 years have preserved both individual freedom and national unity.

As we mark this milestone of our national independence, however, we must not forget the lessons of history. Other nations have risen to great heights only to weaken in their resolve. We must not repeat their error. We must remain strong in our defense and steadfast in our resolve to uphold the principles with which we began two centuries ago.

In accord with the request of the Congress, by joint resolution of May 11, 1950 (64 Stat. 158), let us especially pray on Memorial Day that our continued resolve and our eternal vigilance will bring lasting peace to peoples yearning for peace, and that our honored dead shall not have died in vain.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GERALD R. FORD, President of the United States of America, do hereby designate Memorial Day, Monday, May 31, 1976, as a day of prayer for permanent peace, and I designate the hour beginning in each locality at 11 o'clock in the morning of that day as a time to unite in prayer.

I urge the press, radio, television, and all other information media to join in this observance.

I also call upon the appropriate officials of all levels of government to fly the flag at half-staff until noon during Memorial Day on all buildings, grounds, and naval vessels throughout the United States and in all areas under its jurisdiction and control, and I request the people of the United States to display the flag at half-staff from their homes for the same customary forenoon period.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this nineteenth day of May, 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 4441

May 27, 1976

Father's Day, 1976

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

On the third Sunday in June, 1976, Americans will observe Father's Day as they have most of this century.

Father's Day, 1976, should be of special significance in our Nation's Bicentennial Year. Through two centuries our American fathers have successfully and heroically defended the liberties of this Nation in war and in peace. American fathers have preserved the precious legacy of liberty and passed it, enhanced, to their children and future generations.

On this special day, at a time when more Americans live in greater freedom than ever before, let us honor our fathers not only for their loving counsel, guidance, protection and support, but also for their courage in assuming the challenges and responsibilities synonymous with fatherhood.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GERALD R. FORD, President of the United States of America, in accordance with a joint resolution of the Congress (36 U.S.C. 142a), do hereby request that Sunday, June 20, 1976, be observed as Father's Day, with appropriate public and private expressions of the love and gratitude we bear for our fathers. I call upon the appropriate Government officials to display the flag of the United States on all Government buildings on that day, and urge all citizens to do likewise at their homes and other suitable places.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-seventh day of May, 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 4442

May 27, 1976

Flag Day and National Flag Week, 1976

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Less than a year after our forebears declared their independence, the Continental Congress chose a symbol of the new Nation they sought to bring into being and of the unity and resolve necessary to make that new Nation a reality. On June 14, 1777, the delegates voted:

"... that the flag of the thirteen United States be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white: that the Union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field representing a new constellation."

With the addition of thirty-seven stars, our flag continues to symbolize a great and dynamic republic with the same commitment to liberty and justice.

In this Bicentennial Year, all of us will join with our families, friends and neighbors in public celebrations of our Nation's birth. As we approach the 4th of July, it is especially appropriate this year that, on the anniversary of the adoption of our flag, we publicly express our dedication and respect for the flag of our Republic and the principles for which it stands.

To commemorate the adoption of our flag, the Congress designated June 14 of each year as Flag Day and requested the President to issue annually a proclamation calling for its observance (36 U.S.C. 157). The Congress also requested the President to issue annually a proclamation designating the week in which June 14 occurs as National Flag Week and to call upon all citizens of the United States to display the flag of the United States on those days (36 U.S.C. 157a).