

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

RONALD REAGAN

**Proclamation 5052 of April 15, 1983**

**Law Day U.S.A., 1983**

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

Our Founding Fathers were guided by a belief in the dignity of the individual when they framed our system of government. The Constitution and the Bill of Rights guarantee the blessings of liberty to all, regardless of race, religion, or national origin. These cherished documents bequeath to all Americans the right to equal justice under law and the means to safeguard this right through the legal system.

Today marks our Nation's twenty-sixth annual celebration of Law Day, a day set aside for all Americans to reflect on our legal heritage, the rights we enjoy under our democracy, and the role of law in our society. The theme of this year's Law Day observance is "Sharing in Justice," highlighting both the rights and the responsibilities of each citizen as a participant in shaping and protecting our laws and system of justice.

Each new generation of Americans inherits as a birthright the legal protections secured, protected, and expanded by the vigilance and sacrifice of preceding generations. These rights—freedom of speech, trial by jury, personal liberty, a representative and limited government, and equal protection of the laws, to name but a few—give every citizen a vested interest in American justice.

Active participation in our system serves to protect these interests and preserve them for future generations. It is participation that begins in our own neighborhoods, at town meetings, and during open sessions of city government. Meaningful sharing and participation in our system of justice must start where one is affected most: close to home. This is the basis and strength of our Federal system. Sharing in justice also means working for objectives within the legal system, voting thoughtfully and intelligently, expressing views to our elected representatives, serving as jurors, and volunteering to make our neighborhoods, schools, and communities better places for all. The continuous involvement of the people with all levels of government makes our system of justice work.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RONALD REAGAN, President of the United States of America, in accordance with Public Law 87-20 of April 7, 1961, do hereby proclaim Sunday, May 1, 1983, as Law Day U.S.A., and I invite the American people to observe this event with programs emphasizing the need for each citizen to share and participate in our system of justice.

36 USC 164.

I call upon the legal profession, schools, civic, service, and fraternal organizations, public bodies, libraries, the courts, all media of public information, business, the clergy, and all interested individuals and organizations to focus attention on our Nation's dedication to justice. I also call upon all

public officials to display the flag of the United States on all government buildings open on Law Day, May 1, 1983.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 15th day of April, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and eighty-three, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and seventh.

RONALD REAGAN

**Proclamation 5053 of April 19, 1983**

**Jewish Heritage Week, 1983**

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

American Jews have made significant contributions to every phase of American life. They have served this Nation by fighting for her freedom, building her industry, working for her goals, and nurturing her dreams. They have brought distinction to every field of American endeavor and have participated in the cultural development, economic growth, and spiritual progress of America.

The Jewish people remain dedicated to ancient and revered traditions which have been severely tested over the centuries. From the observance of Passover, which tells the story of the passage from bondage to freedom and rekindles the hope for all who are oppressed, through the participation in the National Days of Remembrance honoring the victims and survivors of the Holocaust and the anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, Jews pay tribute to their past.

Each spring, the American Jewish community remembers its struggles, celebrates its achievements, and renews its commitment to a future of continued advancement. It is during this time that American Jews renew their common heritage with Jews throughout the world by celebrating such occasions as Israel's Independence Day and Solidarity Day for Soviet Jews. In particular, these Jewish traditions have been honored in 1983 by the American Gathering of Holocaust Survivors.

In recognition of the special significance of this time of year to American Jews, in tribute to the important contributions they have made to American life, and in tribute to the cultural diversity of the American people, the Congress of the United States, by House Joint Resolution 80, has authorized and requested the President to proclaim April 17 through April 24, 1983, as Jewish Heritage Week.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RONALD REAGAN, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim the week beginning April 17, 1983, as Jewish Heritage Week. I call upon the people of the United States, Federal, State and local government officials, and interested organizations to observe that week with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and reflection.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 19th day of April, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and eighty-three, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and seventh.

RONALD REAGAN