

Proclamation 7895—Older Americans Month, 2005

May 3, 2005

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Older Americans teach us the timeless lessons of courage, sacrifice, and love. By sharing their wisdom and experience, they serve as role models for future generations. During Older Americans Month, we pay tribute to our senior citizens and their contributions to our Nation.

Our seniors deserve our greatest respect. Their example shows us how to persevere in the face of hardship, care for others in need, and take pride in our communities. Their patriotism, service, and leadership inspire Americans and shape the character and future of our country.

Millions of Americans are now living longer, more productive lives, and many are choosing to stay active in the workforce. Senior citizens are also giving their time and talents by volunteering in many ways—from mentoring youth and participating in environmental stewardship projects to serving the homeless and assisting in emergency preparedness. More than 500,000 senior citizens volunteer through Senior Corps, a network of programs that enables older Americans to meet the needs and challenges of their communities. Through the USA Freedom Corps and Senior Corps, older Americans are dedicating their time and energy to strengthening our Nation and serving a cause greater than themselves.

This year marks the 40th anniversary of the Older Americans Act of 1965, which was created to improve the welfare of our seniors. By treating older Americans with the dignity and respect they deserve, we honor their legacy and contributions to our Nation. Their guidance and love enrich our country and make America a better place for all.

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, do hereby proclaim May 2005 as Older Americans Month. I commend our

senior citizens for their many contributions to our society. I also commend the network of Federal, State, local, and tribal organizations, service and health care providers, caregivers, and dedicated volunteers who work on behalf of our senior citizens. I encourage all Americans to honor their elders, to care for those in need, and to publicly reaffirm our Nation's commitment to older Americans this month and throughout the year.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this third day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand five, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-ninth.

George W. Bush

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NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on May 5.

Proclamation 7896—National Day of Prayer, 2005

May 3, 2005

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Since our Nation's earliest days, prayer has given strength and comfort to Americans of all faiths. Our Founding Fathers relied on their faith to guide them as they built our democracy. Today, we continue to be inspired by God's blessings, mercy, and boundless love. As we observe this National Day of Prayer, we humbly acknowledge our reliance on the Almighty, express our gratitude for His blessings, and seek His guidance in our daily lives.

Throughout our history, our Nation has turned to prayer for strength and guidance in times of challenge and uncertainty. The Continental Congress, meeting in 1775, asked the colonies to pray for wisdom in forming a new Nation. Throughout the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln issued exhortations to prayer, calling upon the American people to humble themselves before their Maker and to serve all those in need. At the height of World War II, President

Franklin Roosevelt led our citizens in prayer over the radio, asking for God to protect our sons in battle. Today, our Nation prays for those who serve bravely in the United States Armed Forces in difficult missions around the world, and we pray for their families.

Across our country, Americans turn daily to God in reverence. We ask Him to care for all those who suffer or feel helpless, knowing that God sees their needs and calls on us to meet them. As our first President wrote in 1790, “May the father of all mercies scatter light and not darkness in our paths . . .”. As we face the challenges of our times, God’s purpose continues to guide us, and we continue to trust in the goodness of His plans.

The Congress by Public Law 100–307, as amended, has called on our citizens to reaffirm the role of prayer in our society and to honor the freedom of religion by recognizing annually a “National Day of Prayer.”

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim May 5, 2005, as a National Day of Prayer. I ask the citizens of our Nation to give thanks, each according to his or her own faith, for the liberty and blessings we have received and for God’s continued guidance and protection. I also urge all Americans to join in observing this day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this third day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand five, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-ninth.

George W. Bush

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Remarks in a Discussion on Strengthening Social Security at the Latino Small Business Economic Conference

May 4, 2005

The President. Thank you all. Thanks for coming. Please be seated. *Sientese*. Thank you, Hector. Thank you for the job you’re doing with the Small Business Administration. Thank you all for coming today to hear this conversation about how to make sure a very important part of our society functions well for a young generation of Latinos and people from all walks of life.

So today we’re here to discuss Social Security and the importance of Social Security. And I want to thank our panelists for joining us. I want to thank the Latino Coalition for hosting this reception. As I look out into the crowd, I see a lot of familiar faces and a lot of friends. It’s great to see you all again. Thank you for coming.

I want to thank Roberto de Posada, the chairman and president of the Latino Coalition. Thank you for hosting this event.

I am honored to be joined today by—or we are honored to be joined by the chairman of the Ways and Means Committee from Bakersfield, California. It’s relevant he is here. After all, it’s his committee that is going to write the reforms necessary to make sure the Social Security system works for a younger generation of Americans. I have worked closely with Chairman Thomas on a lot of crucial issues. When he says he can get the job done, he means he can get the job done and has proven over the past 5 years that he can get the job done. Mr. Chairman, thank you for joining us.

As well Congressman Chris Cannon from Utah is with us. Thank you for coming, Congressman; honored you’re here.

Before I talk about Social Security, though, I want to remind you the war on terror goes on. And today’s report on the capture of a top Al Qaida operative, Abu Faraj al-Libbi,