

Proclamation 7430 of April 27, 2001**National Day of Prayer, 2001**

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

Turning to prayer in times of joy and celebration, strife and tragedy is an integral part of our national heritage. When the first settlers landed on the rocky shores of the New World, they celebrated with prayer, and the practice has continued through our history. In 1775, the Continental Congress asked the citizens of the colonies to pray for wisdom in forming a Nation. General George Washington, encamped at Valley Forge, also sought God's guidance as Americans fought for their independence. The faith of our Founding Fathers established the precedent that prayers and national days of prayer are an honored part of our American way of life.

Continuing in that tradition, many of the men and women who have served at the highest levels of our Nation also have turned to prayer seeking wisdom from the Almighty. President Lincoln, who proclaimed a day of "humiliation, fasting, and prayer" in 1863, once stated: "I have been driven many times to my knees by the overwhelming conviction that I had nowhere else to go. My own wisdom, and that of all about me, seemed insufficient for the day." Today, millions of Americans continue to hold dear that conviction President Lincoln so eloquently expressed. Gathering in churches, synagogues, mosques, temples, and homes, we ask for strength, direction, and compassion for our neighbors and ourselves.

The theme of the 2001 National Day of Prayer is "One Nation Under God." In a prayer written specially for the occasion, Americans are asked to pray for "a moral and spiritual renewal to help us meet the many problems we face." Special observances are scheduled for all 50 States, with local volunteers planning a variety of activities including prayer breakfasts, concerts, rallies, and student gatherings. These events will bring people of all faiths together, each according to his or her own beliefs, to give thanks to the Almighty and to ask for strength and guidance.

The Congress, by Public Law 100-307, has called on our citizens to reaffirm the role of prayer in our society and to honor the religious diversity our freedom permits by recognizing annually a "National Day of Prayer."

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 of America, do hereby proclaim May 3, 2001, as a National Day of Prayer. I encourage the citizens of our Nation to pray each in his or her own manner, seeking God's blessings on our families and government officials and personal renewal, moral awakening, and a new spirit of harmony across our land. I 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 twenty-seventh day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fifth.

GEORGE W. BUSH

Proclamation 7431 of April 30, 2001**Law Day, U.S.A., 2001**

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

This year marks the 44th commemoration of May 1 as Law Day, U.S.A., a national day of observance to celebrate our legal heritage. On this occasion, we reflect on the role our legal system plays in the lives of every American and how the freedoms we enjoy would not be possible without a strong and independent judiciary. The theme of this year's Law Day, "Ensuring the Rights of Victims," acknowledges our gratitude for a legal system that recognizes the importance of protecting the rights of those who are victimized by crime.

This Law Day, I call upon all Americans to consider how the law, communities, and individuals can better assist and support victims of crime. We must continue to strive for a legal system in which victims receive timely and accurate information regarding offenders and relevant public proceedings. In appropriate circumstances, a victim of crime should have an opportunity for restitution. In addition, social services provided to victims of crime can give the assistance and support that victims deserve in the aftermath of crime.

We are encouraged by the progress our country has made over the last three decades toward better assisting those whose lives are affected by criminal offenses. However, government and laws cannot effectively address this issue alone. More than 10,000 State- or community-based organizations provide help and hope to crime victims. I encourage Americans to celebrate, support, and consider joining these volunteers and other workers in service to their fellow citizens.

Keeping faith with our commitment to the victims of crime also drives us to increased efforts to prevent crimes and effectively punish those who commit them, to ensure that similar violations are discouraged and law-abiding citizens are protected.

Law Day provides an opportunity to express appreciation to professionals who accept the responsibility to serve justice. From attorneys to judges to the many other professionals working in our legal system, those who serve justice uphold the rule of law on which our democracy is built. They join with law enforcement professionals to give our people confidence to live without fear for their safety.

We must each do our part to build a Nation in which civility and respect for our neighbors overwhelm the powers of injustice. As Thomas Jefferson wrote, "It is reasonable that every one who asks justice should do justice." I encourage all Americans to join with members of the legal community in protecting the rights of crime victims and in celebrating a legal system that, while not perfect, is the best the world has ever known.

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 1, 2001, as Law Day, U.S.A. I call upon all the people of the United States to observe this day

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with appropriate ceremonies and activities. I also call upon Government officials to display the flag of the United States in support of this national observance.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this thirtieth day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fifth.

GEORGE W. BUSH

Proclamation 7432 of May 4, 2001

Older Americans Month, 2001

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

In cities, towns, and communities across the United States, older Americans make countless contributions to the life of our Nation. Each year, during the month of May, Americans acknowledge in a special way the contributions of older Americans to our society. This year's theme, "The Many Faces of Aging," calls on us to recognize the richness and the promise of our rapidly increasing older population.

Older adults have much to teach us, from persevering in the face of hardship to sustaining our family structure and caring for those in need. Generations of older Americans have done the hard work of building communities, places of worship, businesses, and schools, laying the foundation for our American way of life. Embodying the steadfast devotion, courage, and sacrifice that our ancestors brought to this country, older Americans continue to energize our national life. Many of these former teachers, leaders of industry, war heroes, and religious figures help new generations learn about our past by taking time out of their lives to share their experiences and to serve as role models. Their values of hard work, determination, compassion, and faith continue to benefit our families and all Americans. As we celebrate Older Americans Month, I encourage Americans to take advantage of the wisdom and experience of our elder citizens.

Working in partnership with States and local organizations, my Administration is proposing that the Federal Government do more to facilitate service opportunities for seniors.

My Administration is committed to improving the quality of life of our Nation's seniors, who are often burdened with concerns about health care. We will strengthen Medicare for the baby boomers and subsequent generations. We will renew the promise made to our seniors and people with disabilities by providing access to affordable prescription drugs and better options to meet their health care needs. By ensuring that our senior citizens live in comfort and security, we honor them and thank them for their service.

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