

support for democracy promotion programs globally and have increased the budget for the National Endowment for Democracy to strengthen support for free elections, free markets, free speech, and human rights advocacy around the world.

Freedom and dignity are God's gift to each man and woman in the world. During this observance, we encourage all nations to continue working towards freedom, peace, and security, which can be achieved only through democracy, respect for human rights, and the rule of law.

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 December 10, 2004, as Human Rights Day; December 15, 2004, as Bill of Rights Day; and the week beginning December 10, 2004, as Human Rights Week. I call upon the people of the United States to honor the legacy of human rights passed down to us from previous generations and to mark these observances with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this tenth day of December, in the year of our Lord two thousand four, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-ninth.

GEORGE W. BUSH

Proclamation 7855 of December 15, 2004

60th Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge, 2004

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

Sixty years ago, more than 600,000 American soldiers fought at the Battle of the Bulge in the Ardennes Forest region of Belgium and Luxembourg. What began as a German surprise attack on December 16, 1944, became the largest land battle involving U.S. troops in World War II and ended with an Allied victory on January 25, 1945. By the end of the battle, there were 81,000 American casualties, including approximately 19,000 who had sacrificed their lives. This formidable stand was a turning point in the war and was critical to the defeat of Nazi Germany and the liberation of Europe from tyranny.

Americans continue to be inspired by the valor and integrity of those who fought and those who died at the Battle of the Bulge. We recognize these brave individuals and pay special tribute to all the veterans of World War II. When it mattered most, an entire generation of Americans showed the finest qualities of our Nation and humanity. Today, as we wage a war on terrorism and defend freedom, our service men and women follow and uphold this great tradition of achievement and courage. Just like their parents and grandparents, the men and women of this generation of our military have answered the call to help advance peace and democracy and keep the American people safe.

Proc. 7856

Title 3—The President

On the 60th anniversary of one of the fiercest battles of World War II, our Nation honors the veterans who share with us the story of this epic struggle and all of the brave Americans who fought in the Battle of the Bulge.

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 urge all Americans to observe the 60th Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge. I call upon all Americans to observe this occasion with appropriate activities, ceremonies, and programs designed to honor those who served and sacrificed to liberate Europe and defend America's freedom and security.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this fifteenth day of December, in the year of our Lord two thousand four, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-ninth.

GEORGE W. BUSH

Proclamation 7856 of December 17, 2004

Wright Brothers Day, 2004

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

On Wright Brothers Day, we honor the achievement and imagination of Orville and Wilbur Wright, two bicycle mechanics from Dayton, Ohio, who changed the world with their optimism, creativity, and persistence. On this day, we recall a monumental event in the history of our Nation and in the story of mankind.

On a cold December morning in 1903 on the Outer Banks of North Carolina, a small wood and canvas aircraft sent America on a journey far beyond the sands of Kitty Hawk. The flight spanned 120 feet and lasted just 12 seconds, yet it ushered in a new era of unimaginable advances in aviation and aerospace technology. Today, air travel is vital to our country, helping bring people together and sustain our security. In addition, the aviation industry strengthens our economy by supporting millions of jobs.

The spirit that led the Wright Brothers to powered flight continues today in America's space program. From providing surveys of the sun to images of the planets, our spacecraft are exploring the outer edges of our solar system and revolutionizing our view of the universe. Under my Vision for Space Exploration Program, we will proudly carry on the Wright Brothers' tradition of innovation. As we embark on the next century of flight, that spirit of discovery will help our Nation and the world realize the full promise of tomorrow.

The Congress, by a joint resolution approved December 17, 1963 (77 Stat. 402; 36 U.S.C. 143) as amended, has designated December 17 of each year as "Wright Brothers Day" and has authorized and requested the President to issue annually a proclamation inviting the people of the United States to observe that day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.