

pursued a dream that carried him to the “New World” and helped launch an age of exploration, leading to the founding of new countries across the Americas. Through the years, the desire to discover and understand has been a part of our Nation’s character, and Columbus’ spirit has inspired generations of explorers and inventors. On Columbus Day, we honor Christopher Columbus and the vision that carried him on his historic voyage.

Since 1934, when President Roosevelt first proclaimed the national holiday, our Nation has observed Columbus Day to mark the moment when the Old World met the New. As we recognize Columbus’ legacy, we also celebrate the contributions of Italian Americans to our Nation’s growth and well-being. Americans of Italian descent are musicians and athletes, doctors and lawyers, teachers and first responders. They are serving bravely in our Armed Forces. From our country’s first days, the sons and daughters of Italy have brought honor to themselves and enriched our national life.

More than 500 years after Columbus’ journey, we are honored that the Italian Republic is among our closest friends and strongest allies. On Columbus Day, we celebrate this strong bond between America and Italy.

In commemoration of Columbus’ journey, the Congress, by joint resolution of April 30, 1934, and modified in 1968 (36 U.S.C. 107), as amended, has requested that the President proclaim the second Monday of October of each year as “Columbus Day.”

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim October 10, 2005, as Columbus Day. I call upon the people of the United States to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities. I also direct that the flag of the United States be displayed on all public buildings on the appointed day in honor of Christopher Columbus.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this seventh day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand five, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirtieth.

GEORGE W. BUSH

Proclamation 7945 of October 7, 2005

General Pulaski Memorial Day, 2005

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

America’s freedom has been achieved with great sacrifice. In the Revolutionary War, General Casimir Pulaski gave his life for the cause of freedom. Today, we honor his selfless contributions and heroic service.

Born in Poland, Casimir Pulaski fought Russian oppression in his homeland. In 1776, Benjamin Franklin met Pulaski in France and successfully recruited him to join the American fight for liberty. In America, Pulaski distinguished himself at the Battle of Brandywine and was commissioned as a Brigadier General by General George Washington. After raising his own legion, a special infantry and cavalry division that included many foreign-

born troops, he helped defend Charleston, South Carolina, before being mortally wounded at the siege of Savannah in 1779.

General Pulaski exemplifies the spirit and determination of Polish immigrants to America, and he embodies our Nation's highest ideals. On this day, we express our gratitude for all the contributions of Polish Americans to our Nation and for the strong relationship between the United States and Poland. By honoring this lasting friendship and remembering heroes like General Pulaski, we reaffirm our commitment to advancing our country's founding ideals and carry forward our heritage of freedom.

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 October 11, 2005, as General Pulaski Memorial Day. I encourage Americans to commemorate this occasion with appropriate programs and activities honoring Casimir Pulaski and all those who defend freedom.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this seventh day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand five, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirtieth.

GEORGE W. BUSH

Proclamation 7946 of October 14, 2005

National Character Counts Week, 2005

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

During National Character Counts Week, we focus on ways to reach out to our fellow Americans, especially children. Parents are the first and best example of character in a child's life. By volunteering and performing other acts of service in their communities, parents can teach children about the good that comes from helping others. By extending a hand to those who suffer, parents can demonstrate kindness and compassion and help children learn the importance of serving a cause greater than themselves.

Our schools also play a vital part in providing children with the principles they need to grow and succeed. The Department of Education supports character education through its Partnerships in Character Education Program. During my Administration, over 60 State and local education agencies have received funding from the Department of Education to provide programs that teach important values to our youth.

Many citizens around the country are helping in the effort to teach character to children. One of the most important ways to contribute is to become a mentor. By showing love, support, and compassion, one person can make a difference in the life of a child.

During National Character Counts Week and throughout the year, I encourage children and all Americans to make good choices in life, set high standards, and serve as leaders. By working together, we can all contribute