

and inventors, researchers and engineers. On the anniversary of Christopher Columbus’s voyage, we celebrate the pursuit of discovery as an essential element of the American character. Embracing this heritage and inspiring young people to set their own sails, our Nation will reach the shores of an ever brighter tomorrow.

In commemoration of Christopher Columbus’s historic voyage 519 years ago, the Congress, by joint resolution of April 30, 1934, and modified in 1968 (36 U.S.C. 107), as amended, has requested the President proclaim the second Monday of October of each year as “Columbus Day.”

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim October 10, 2011, 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 our diverse history and all who have contributed to shaping this Nation.

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

BARACK OBAMA

**Proclamation 8736 of October 11, 2011**

**General Pulaski Memorial Day, 2011**

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

Today, America pays tribute to Brigadier General Casimir Pulaski, a proud Polish patriot who embraced our country’s highest ideals. He fought for freedom on two continents, earned the title, “Father of the American Cavalry,” and guided his unit through some of the toughest tests of the Revolutionary War, ultimately laying down his life for our nascent country. On General Pulaski Memorial Day, we honor his memory and celebrate the many contributions Polish Americans have made to America’s culture and history.

As a young soldier, General Pulaski rose to defend his homeland against foreign occupation. He fought valiantly for Poland’s sovereignty but was eventually forced into exile, and it was in Paris that he met Benjamin Franklin. Franklin told him of America’s aspirations, and Pulaski journeyed across the Atlantic to join our struggle for freedom, equality, and justice. Arriving in America in 1777, he served beside General George Washington, who appreciated his military experience. He later formed an independent corps of cavalry known as the Pulaski Legion, which battled bravely from the New Jersey coast to the siege of Savannah, where he was mortally wounded.

Pulaski’s unit was a diverse collection of soldiers, composed of Americans, Germans, Frenchmen, Irishmen, and Poles. Their differences were many,

but they were united by a basic longing for human liberty. This same longing—which moved Pulaski to make the ultimate sacrifice—has come to define America and reflect our lasting ties to the people of Poland. Today, as we commemorate Casimir Pulaski’s extraordinary life, we recognize that his spirit lives on in all those who are driven to pursue a freer, more just world.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim October 11, 2011, as General Pulaski Memorial Day. I encourage all Americans to commemorate this occasion with appropriate programs and activities paying tribute to Casimir Pulaski and honoring all those who defend the freedom of our Nation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this eleventh day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand eleven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-sixth.

BARACK OBAMA

#### **Proclamation 8737 of October 14, 2011**

#### **National Character Counts Week, 2011**

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

In times of adversity and triumph alike, the American people have been guided by the strength of our character. With resilience and compassion, we have provided for our neighbors, lifted their spirits, and embraced our shared humanity. During National Character Counts Week, we celebrate our country’s core values and commit to passing them on to the next generation.

By setting a positive example for our children, we can inspire in them the virtues that define our Nation: personal integrity, bold ingenuity, and a drive to serve others. America’s role models—from parents and teachers to community leaders and coaches—play an integral role in shaping character. They foster patriotism, promote civic pride, and teach young people to live by the Golden Rule by treating others the way they want to be treated. Together, all Americans must cultivate moral fortitude, preach tolerance, and demonstrate the value of respect for those different from ourselves.

Tragic events in our Nation remind us why it is imperative that we create a climate of acceptance and compassion in our schools and communities. Our country has mourned as we have heard heartbreaking stories of promising young men and women subjected to harassment and bullying, driving some out of school, and others to ultimately take their own lives. No family should have to endure such a loss, and no child should feel that alone. Let us honor their memories by striving to make our neighborhoods and schools safe and affirming places for every child to learn, grow, and dream.

Our Nation’s character is engrained in our past, central to our present, and key to our future. All of us share a responsibility to preserve and uphold the values that have kept our country strong, prosperous, and free. This