

cies known collectively as the birds of prey. These include the hawks, the owls, and our national symbol, the bald eagle.

These birds are not only some of the most graceful and impressive flyers, they play a vital role in the ecological balance by maintaining predator-prey relationships so essential to the stability of the natural world.

While nearly all Americans today recognize the beauty and value of these great birds, this recognition was long in coming. As we settled the land and developed our Nation, we were slow to heed what loss of habitat and indiscriminate shooting could do to this priceless resource. Fortunately, however, our knowledge and appreciation of these splendid creatures has deepened, as have our efforts to protect them. We now see the bald eagle nesting populations increasing each year. Once again, the peregrine falcon is a fairly common sight for bird-watchers along our coasts and even in several of our major cities. Motorists along our interstate highways can enjoy the frequent sighting of redtailed hawks resting in trees along the rights of way. Indeed, bird-watching for birds of prey is becoming an economic plus to many local economies.

Thanks to increased public interest and effective conservation law enforcement, illegal shooting of these great birds is on the decline. More and more, our citizens grow to understand the importance of these creatures to the American landscape and to treasure the spirit of strength, freedom, and boldness they represent.

To celebrate the continuing restoration of this magnificent resource, and to remind our citizens of the abiding need for wildlife conservation, the Congress, by Senate Joint Resolution 288, has designated the month of May 1986 as "National Birds of Prey Month" and authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this month.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RONALD REAGAN, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim the month of May 1986 as National Birds of Prey Month. I encourage all Americans to observe this month by participating in appropriate events and activities sponsored by government agencies, individuals, and private associations and organizations throughout the country to promote the appreciation and conservation of America's birds of prey.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-second day of May, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and eighty-six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and tenth.

RONALD REAGAN

Proclamation 5492 of May 23, 1986

National Food Bank Week, 1986

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

In communities all across the United States, food banks have been established to help provide wholesome food for people in need.

These unique institutions are in the best tradition of American voluntarism. They have brought together public agencies, private industry, church groups, various associations, and individual Americans in a concerted drive to meet a basic human need. America's food banks provide immediate, tem-

porary assistance at a neighborhood level to individuals and families who often do not know anywhere else to turn.

Private donors of food have greatly assisted in the maintenance and expansion of these worthwhile programs. Schools and neighborhood groups have contributed thousands of hours of manpower by helping collect and distribute the vast quantity of foodstuffs that food banks handle each year. The food banks themselves are staffed by dedicated citizens who seek nothing for themselves but the satisfaction of knowing that they have served as an invaluable resource to their fellowman. Without the humanitarian and charitable concern of all those involved in this mission, the sense of community and brotherly love that is indispensable to the quality of life in our cities and towns would be undermined.

In recognition of the many contributions of food banks and the selfless Americans who help organize and operate them, the Congress, by House Joint Resolution 234, has designated the week beginning May 18 through May 24, 1986, as "National Food Bank Week" and authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this event.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RONALD REAGAN, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim the week beginning May 18 through May 24, 1986, as National Food Bank Week. I call upon all Americans to join in recognizing the accomplishments of these food banks.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 23rd day of May, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and eighty-six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and tenth.

RONALD REAGAN

Proclamation 5493 of May 23, 1986

Hands Across America Day, 1986

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

Time and again in American history the people of this great Nation have joined together in demonstrations of concern for the plight of their fellowman. Throughout the world, the people of the United States are known for their tradition of generosity and voluntary service to others. The strength of this tradition, which has been revitalized in the 1980s, lies in a key insight: The well-being of each and every individual in our society is a matter not only of public interest, but of personal responsibility as well. No form of charitable endeavor can truly succeed if it is not grounded in the recognition that the benefits it confers are as important to the giver as they are to the recipient.

On May 25, 1986, millions of Americans will participate in "Hands Across America," a visible symbol of the determination that unites Americans in the fight against hunger and homelessness. By joining together in this way, in cities and towns, along the back roads and mountain highways, from sea to shining sea, the people of this blessed land are reaffirming their willingness to sacrifice so that adequate food and shelter are available to all. This occasion represents an opportunity for all Americans to reflect on the root causes of these persistent problems, and to rededicate ourselves to finding