

We must also become more aware that appropriate treatment can lift depression, ameliorate hallucinations and delusions, relieve panic and anxiety, and overcome dysfunctional behavior and thinking patterns. We must also realize that treatment of mental illness restores productivity to the treated, reduces their use of other health services, and increases their social independence.

Research has prompted unparalleled growth in scientific knowledge about mental illness. New technologies have permitted study of the living brain and elucidated its linkages to normal and abnormal behaviors. Such research has profound implications for all of us because it offers hope for those with the most devastating and resistant disorders and because it provides clues to the bases of human behavior.

In recognition of the urgent need to educate the American public about mental illnesses and their treatments, the Congress, by Public Law 99-404, has designated the week of October 5 through October 11, 1986, as "Mental Illness Awareness 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 of October 5 through October 11, 1986, as Mental Illness Awareness Week. I call upon all people of the United States to observe such week with ceremonies and activities designed to exchange fear of mental illness for knowledge of its causes and treatments and to replace stigma against the mentally ill with understanding of their needs and suffering.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this eighth day of October, 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 eleventh.

RONALD REAGAN

Proclamation 5539 of October 8, 1986

National Fire Fighters Day, 1986

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

Our Nation's fire fighters protect our lives, our families, and the economic life of our communities from the threat of fire. Many valiant fire fighters have given their lives, and all daily risk death or injury, to preserve the lives of others and to protect our property and resources from destruction.

Our more than 2 million professional and volunteer fire fighters make countless contributions and sacrifices for their fellow citizens. In 1984, these fire fighters responded to more than 2 million fires and more than 8 million non-fire emergencies. These brave Americans well deserve our gratitude and public recognition.

The Congress, by Public Law 99-343, has designated October 8, 1986, as "National Fire Fighters Day" and authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this occasion.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RONALD REAGAN, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim Wednesday, October 8, 1986, as National Fire Fighters Day, and I urge all Americans to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this eighth day of October, 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 eleventh.

RONALD REAGAN

Proclamation 5540 of October 8, 1986

General Pulaski Memorial Day, 1986

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

On October 11, the United States celebrates General Pulaski Memorial Day, an opportunity for all Americans to reflect on Casimir Pulaski's achievements as a leader and a soldier in our country's struggle for freedom in the Revolutionary War.

General Pulaski died on October 11, 1779, from wounds suffered while he led a cavalry charge during the siege of Savannah. Forced to flee his homeland of Poland after struggling for his country's independence, he generously put his skills as a soldier and military tactician at the service of our fledgling Nation.

General Pulaski asked to be buried at sea, that the waves might carry him back to his native Poland. Polish Americans recognize and revere his abiding ties to a Poland where faith, sacrifice, and selfless toil for liberty are the bedrock of the nation's proud traditions. General Pulaski's heroism is an inspiration as well to all Americans. He recognized no barriers of culture, language, or history in humanity's universal search for individual rights and for political and religious liberty.

General Pulaski's spirit survives today—in our hearts and in the rights enshrined in our Constitution. We can enjoy our freedoms because of the enduring vision for which Casimir Pulaski fought and died. We stand for these rights in our dialogue with other nations, where each released political prisoner, every gain for a free press or freedom of worship, or any progress toward freedom of speech and assembly is a new victory in the struggle General Pulaski undertook more than 200 years ago.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RONALD REAGAN, 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 Saturday, October 11, 1986, as General Pulaski Memorial Day, and I direct the appropriate government officials to display the flag of the United States on all government buildings on that day. In addition, I encourage the people of the United States to commemorate this occasion as appropriate throughout the land.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this eighth day of October, 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 eleventh.

RONALD REAGAN