

Television can also be a powerful tool in convincing children to say "no" to illegal drugs and "yes" to life. Parents now have a wonderful opportunity to work closely with schools, churches, libraries, and community groups to encourage and foster programming that will nurture the intellect and imagination of our children while at the same time promoting and reinforcing parental values that strengthen the family unit. Although television can never replace the adventure of good books, the two can serve to stimulate and reinforce each other while preparing our children to take up the exciting challenges that lie before them.

In order to increase the awareness of how television can be used to enhance the education of our children, the Congress, by Public Law 99-444, has designated the week beginning October 12, 1986, as "National Children's Television Awareness Week" and authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this week.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RONALD REAGAN, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim the week beginning October 12, 1986, as National Children's Television Awareness Week. I invite all of our citizens to observe this week with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this thirteenth 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 5550 of October 13, 1986

White Cane Safety Day, 1986

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

As more and more blind and visually handicapped Americans enter the mainstream of society to live and work among sighted people, all of us should reflect on the significance of the white cane. Through the aid of a white cane and an informed public, many blind and visually handicapped people can better enjoy the fullness of life.

The white cane guides its users and signals others—but it also symbolizes the ability of blind and visually impaired citizens to enjoy the freedom and independence meant for all Americans. Sighted people should be aware that many white cane users lead independent lives and that others are well on their way to doing so. White cane bearers should always receive friendliness, consideration, and respect on the street, on the job, and everywhere else Americans' paths cross.

In recognition of the significance of the white cane, the Congress, by joint resolution approved October 6, 1964, has authorized the President to designate October 15 of each year as "White Cane Safety Day."

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RONALD REAGAN, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim October 15, 1986, as White Cane Safety Day. I urge all Americans to salute the independence of those who carry the white cane and to consider how each of us, in our work and in our daily rounds, can show our respect for these proud and able Americans.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this thirteenth 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 5551 of October 13, 1986

Thanksgiving Day, 1986

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

Perhaps no custom reveals our character as a Nation so clearly as our celebration of Thanksgiving Day. Rooted deeply in our Judeo-Christian heritage, the practice of offering thanksgiving underscores our unshakeable belief in God as the foundation of our Nation and our firm reliance upon Him from Whom all blessings flow. Both as individuals and as a people, we join with the Psalmist in song and praise: "Give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good."

One of the most inspiring portrayals of American history is that of George Washington on his knees in the snow at Valley Forge. That moving image personifies and testifies to our Founders' dependence upon Divine Providence during the darkest hours of our Revolutionary struggle. It was then—when our mettle as a Nation was tested most severely—that the Sovereign and Judge of nations heard our plea and came to our assistance in the form of aid from France. Thereupon General Washington immediately called for a special day of thanksgiving among his troops.

Eleven years later, President Washington, at the request of the Congress, first proclaimed November 26, 1789, as Thanksgiving Day. In his Thanksgiving Day Proclamation, President Washington exhorted the people of the United States to observe "a day of public thanksgiving and prayer" so that they might acknowledge "with grateful hearts the many signal favors of Almighty God, especially by affording them an opportunity peaceably to establish a form of government for their safety and happiness." Washington also reminded us that "it is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey His will, to be grateful for His benefits, and humbly to implore His protection and favor."

Today let us take heart from the noble example of our first President. Let us pause from our many activities to give thanks to Almighty God for our bountiful harvests and abundant freedoms. Let us call upon Him for continued guidance and assistance in all our endeavors. And let us ever be mindful of the faith and spiritual values that have made our Nation great and that alone can keep us great. With joy and gratitude in our hearts, let us sing those stirring stanzas:

O beautiful for spacious skies,
For amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties
Above the fruited plain!

—America! America!

God shed His grace on thee.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RONALD REAGAN, President of the United States of America, in the spirit of George Washington and the Founders, do