

hereby proclaim Thursday, November 27, 1986, as a National Day of Thanksgiving, and I call upon every citizen of this great Nation to gather together in homes and places of worship on that day of thanks to affirm by their prayers and their gratitude the many blessings bestowed upon this land and its people.

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 5552 of October 15, 1986**

**National Institutes of Health Centennial Year**

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

The National Institutes of Health, which began as a one-room laboratory at the Marine Hospital on Staten Island in 1887, has become the world's foremost biomedical research center. Its investigators are at the forefront of discoveries that contribute to better health for mankind.

The National Institutes of Health provides ongoing leadership in a unique relationship among government, academia, industry, and voluntary organizations. In addition to conducting investigations in its own laboratories, the NIH supports the activities of non-Federal scientists in universities, medical schools, hospitals, and other public, private, and voluntary research institutions. It plays a crucial role in training our Nation's biomedical research scientists and fosters biomedical communication throughout our country and abroad. The NIH facilitates international assemblies of scientists and promotes the exchange of scientists and scientific information between the United States and other countries.

The efforts of biomedical scientists have contributed to bringing our Nation's death rate to an all-time low. Survival rates have improved for patients with seven of the ten major forms of cancer. The death rate for cardiovascular diseases has declined more rapidly than has that for all other causes of death combined. New methods of hypertension control have reduced the incidence of stroke. Dramatic progress has taken place in prevention of blindness through laser technology and in the understanding and treatment of genetic diseases.

Achievements such as these have been recognized internationally by the awarding of Nobel Prizes to four NIH scientists and to 81 recipients of NIH grant support.

Despite the significant improvements in health over the past century, many health-related mysteries remain. The National Institutes of Health will continue to play a vital role in solving these problems. The NIH is opening exciting new opportunities at nearly every level of biomedical research, and our Nation is proud of this great institution and its accomplishments.

The Congress, by Senate Joint Resolution 395, has designated the period beginning October 1, 1986, through September 30, 1987, as the "National Institutes of Health Centennial Year" and has 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 year beginning October 1, 1986, as the National Institutes of Health Centennial Year. I call upon the people of the United States to observe this occasion with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this fifteenth 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 5553 of October 15, 1986

### National Forest Products Week, 1986

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

The greatness of our Nation is paralleled by the greatness of our forests. By providing food, water, shelter, fuel, and the raw materials for thousands of products, the forests sustained the pioneers, provided for our Nation's growth, and assisted in our defense. Today our country, and indeed the entire world, continues to need the products of our forests to meet social, economic, and industrial demands.

We have been blessed with an abundance of natural resources, and we have the responsibility to be good stewards of our land. Throughout our history, when people have cared for the forests, using them wisely and replenishing them in a timely way, the forests and the Nation alike have prospered.

A forest is a wondrous environment, with an amazing number of checks and balances that maintain its vitality. Human intervention by knowledgeable, caring people benefits forest productivity. Advances brought about through research and implemented by professional land managers have significantly increased the productivity of our forested lands.

Evidence that productive forests benefit the people is all around us. Wood is an essential component of the houses we live in, the furniture we sit on, the newspapers we read, and countless other products we use every day. The jobs generated by processing forest products are an important part of our economic prosperity. The water most of us use is generated and purified by forest ecosystems, and forests provide essential habitats for fish and wildlife. Additionally, the recreation opportunities afforded by forests provide visitors with rejuvenating experiences and help fuel thousands of business enterprises that cater to our recreation needs. In short, proper use of our forest resources can significantly increase the economic, social, and environmental wealth and strength of our Nation.

To promote greater awareness and appreciation of the many benefits of our forests to our Nation's well-being, the Congress, by Public Law 86-753 (36 U.S.C. 163), has designated the week beginning on the third Sunday in October of each year as "National Forest Products 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 19, 1986, as