PROCLAMATION 5591—DEC. 15, 1986

The Congress, by Public Law 99-612, has expressed gratitude to United Way, congratulated it, and applauded and encouraged its fine work and its goals.

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 heartfelt thanks to a century of Americans who have shaped and supported United Way, and encourage the continuation of its efforts.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this tenth day of December, 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 5591 of December 15, 1986

National Drunk and Drugged Driving Awareness Week, 1986

By the President of the United States of America
A Proclamation

Driving by people impaired by alcohol or other drugs is one of our Nation’s most serious public health and safety problems. Each year, drunk and drugged drivers cause tens of thousands of highway fatalities and hundreds of thousands of injuries. In 1985, for instance, more than half of all highway deaths were alcohol-related.

Each of us must help reduce this carnage through an awareness of what can be done, a commitment to do the right thing, and a refusal to tolerate drunk and drugged driving. We need to detect and stop impaired drivers before they cause an accident. We must insist upon strict law enforcement and swift and sure penalties and ensure that the privilege of driving is withdrawn when a drunken driver deliberately endangers others. We must not wait until personal tragedy strikes to become involved.

Statistics show that a disproportionate number of our young people are involved in alcohol-related accidents and that raising the legal drinking age reduces alcohol-related crash involvement among young drivers. Most States commendably have raised their legal drinking age. The Federal government continues to encourage States to establish 21 as the minimum age at which individuals may purchase, possess, or consume alcoholic beverages. We can all be grateful for the efforts of dedicated citizen volunteers in creating the growing awareness that motor vehicle accidents are the leading cause of death among young people.

More and more informed, concerned citizens are getting involved in generating awareness, education, and action to remove drunk and drugged drivers from our roads and highways. With the continued involvement of private citizens working together, and action at all levels of government, we can begin to control the problem of drunk and drugged driving.
In order to encourage citizen involvement in prevention efforts and to in­
crease awareness of the seriousness of the threat to our lives and safety,
the Congress, by Public Law 99-447, has designated the week of December
14 through December 20, 1986, as "National Drunk and Drugged Driving
Awareness Week" and authorized and requested the President to issued a
proclamation in observance of this week.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RONALD REAGAN, President of the United States
of America, do hereby proclaim the week of December 14 through Decem­
ber 20, 1986, as National Drunk and Drugged Driving Awareness Week. I
call upon each American to help make the difference between the tragedy
of alcohol-related motor vehicle accidents and the blessings of full health
and life. I ask Americans to show concern and not to permit others to drink
or take drugs and drive.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 15th day of De­
cember, 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 elev­
enth.

RONALD REAGAN

Editorial note: For the President's statement of December 15, 1986, on signing Proclamation 5591,
see the Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents (vol. 22, p. 1650).

Proclamation 5592 of December 18, 1986

National Burn Awareness Week, 1987

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Burns continue to be one of the leading causes of accidental death and
injury in our Nation. Each year, burns kill approximately 12,000 Americans
and injure more than two million, of whom 70,000 need hospitalization.
Tragically, children, the elderly, and the disabled are especially vulnerable
to burn injuries, and almost one-third of all burn victims are under age 15.
Further, survivors may experience serious scarring, loss of muscle tissue
over joints, and accompanying physical disabilities and adjustment difficul­
ties.

Thankfully, significant research advances have improved burn surgery and
treatment, aided rehabilitation, shortened hospital stays, and much in­
creased the burn survival rate. Among the most important therapeutic ad­
vances are techniques for early burn excision and wound closure, the de­
velopment of artificial skin to cover large burn areas, better ways to pre­
vent and control infection, and improved ways to restore fluid balance and
provide adequate nutrition.

Much remains to be learned, however, about the body's underlying re­
sponses to burn injury—for instance, the body's infection-fighting system,
factors leading to tissue breakdown and energy loss, hormonal changes,
and the life-threatening effects of shock.