greater cause for gratitude than the fresh triumphs that inspired Washing­
ton's prose. We have seen the splendor of our natural resources spread 
across the tables of the world, and we have seen the splendor of freedom 
couring with new vigor through the channels of history. The cause for 
which we give thanks, for which so many of our citizens through the years 
have given their lives, has endured 200 years—a blessing to us and a light 
to all mankind.

On Thanksgiving Day, 1987, let us, in this unbroken chain of observance, 
dedicate ourselves to honor anew the Author of Liberty and to publicly ac­
knowledge our debt to all those who have sacrificed so much in our behalf. 
May our gratitude always be coupled with petitions for divine guidance and 
protection for our Nation and with ready help for our neighbors in time of 
need.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RONALD REAGAN, President of the United States 
of America, do hereby proclaim Thursday, November 26, 1987, as a Nation­
al Day of Thanksgiving, and I call upon the citizens 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 God has be­
stowed upon us.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-eighth 
day of July, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and eighty-seven, and 
of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and 
twelfth.

RONALD REAGAN

Proclamation 5688 of August 4, 1987

Women's Equality Day, 1987

By the President of the United States of America
A Proclamation

Throughout our history, an American saga of optimism, hard work, quiet 
heroism, and steady expansion, the contributions of women have been in­
dispensable to this Nation's progress. From Plymouth and Jamestown to the 
Oregon Trail and the Great Plains, women of strength and determination 
helped fashion a new life and a new nation from the raw materials of the 
American wilderness. Their faith in God, their trust in the promise of the 
New World, and their love for their families steeled them against the rigors 
of daily living in a harsh and untamed land. Without their commitment, 
America would never have yielded up the bounty that was the first hall­
mark of its greatness.

In recognition of these immeasurable contributions and to redress the injus­
tice of denying American women the right to vote, the Nineteenth Amend­
ment was adopted in 1920 to guarantee political equality, the very bedrock 
of all rights and liberties, to American women. On this August 26, we cele­
brate the 67th anniversary of the ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment 
as Women's Equality Day, and we celebrate as well the role that women 
have won for themselves in our country's democratic process. Political
equality has meant a growing panoply of opportunity for women and accelerating economic growth for America. It has reaffirmed the core ideals of the political compacts that built our Nation and sustain it now—the endowment of unalienable rights and unique abilities that each of us possesses from our Creator. It has opened the horizons of achievement and widened the paths of prosperity and personal fulfillment.

On this occasion, then, we must rededicate ourselves to policies and strategies that safeguard equality of opportunity and that help us secure the goals that equality serves: healthy families, good neighborhoods, productive work, true peace, and genuine freedom. America today honors women for all they have done, as pioneers, patriots, parents, and partners, to build happy homes and a strong society.

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 August 26, 1987, as Women's Equality Day. I call upon all Americans to mark this occasion with appropriate observances.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this fourth day of August, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and eighty-seven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twelfth.

RONALD REAGAN

Proclamation 5689 of August 4, 1987

National Alzheimer's Disease Month, 1987

By the President of the United States of America
A Proclamation

Alzheimer's disease is a degenerative brain disorder that causes progressive loss of memory and intellectual function. Those afflicted suffer increasing forgetfulness, confusion, irritability, and other changes in personality and behavior, and sometimes in judgment, concentration, and speech.

The tragedy of Alzheimer's disease has spurred scientists to intensify their efforts to understand what causes the brain to deteriorate. Recently, a research team cloned a gene involved in the wayward biochemistry of the Alzheimer's brain and located this gene on a specific chromosome. This achievement opens new lines of investigation and offers hope that one day we can identify those at risk and develop methods of treatment and prevention.

Until we conquer Alzheimer's disease, we must continue our research efforts, provide the public with information about the disorder, and seek other ways to ease its burden on patients, families, and caregivers. Many people and organizations are already devoted to this effort, including the Federal government's National Institute on Aging and National Institute of Mental Health and the private sector's Alzheimer's Disease and Related