IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this first day of October, 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 5716 of October 1, 1987

Columbus Day, 1987

By the President of the United States of America
A Proclamation

Every October the people of the United States celebrate the day nearly 500 autumns ago when Christopher Columbus and the crews of the Nina, the Pinta, and the Santa Maria found a New World. That world is our Western Hemisphere, and we in the United States trace the history and development of our country and our culture back to Columbus and his daring exploration, his initiative, his faith, and his courage.

Columbus continues to inspire the United States and the rest of the world for almost half a thousand years because of his great understanding and vision and because of his single-minded determination to let no disappointment, ridicule, or risk keep him from a goal he knew to be sensible, feasible, and of great promise. He viewed the unknown as an opportunity, not as a danger.

The Admiral of the Ocean Seas is remembered as well for challenging the horizons of his time and place, for his spirit of reaching beyond the obvious, for defying the pessimists and expanding the frontiers of knowledge. That spirit animated those who followed him to the New World through the centuries and brought untold energy, boldness, and ingenuity with them. We Americans are risk-takers; like Columbus, we have a vision of the world as it can be, and of the future as an opportunity and a challenge.

Italian Americans have special reason to celebrate Columbus Day with great pride. Columbus was the first of many Italian travelers who have made contributions to the New World. Columbus is one of many links binding the United States and Italy in a special relationship.

This tribute also has special meaning for Americans of Spanish descent. Without Spanish support, Columbus’s voyage of discovery would not have been possible. Spain’s contribution to the New World and to its cultural and economic heritage went on to be even larger, as the recent visit by Their Majesties King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia of Spain to the American Southwest reminded us.

The year 1992 will be the 500th anniversary of Columbus’s first voyage to the Americas. The Christopher Columbus Quincentenary Jubilee Commission, a distinguished group of Americans aided by representatives from Spain and Italy, prepared a report that I transmitted to the Congress in September of this year, making recommendations for our Nation’s observance of the Quincentenary, including themes that embody the broad significance of this anniversary and suggestions for Quincentenary programs that will
extend to communities, organizations, and institutions around the United States.

In tribute to Christopher Columbus, the Congress of the United States, by joint resolution approved April 30, 1934 (48 Stat. 657), as modified by the Act of June 28, 1968 (82 Stat. 250), has requested the President to proclaim the second Monday in October of each year as "Columbus Day."

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RONALD REAGAN, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim Monday, October 12, 1987, as Columbus Day. I invite the people of this Nation to observe that day with appropriate ceremonies in honor of this great explorer. I also direct that the flag of the United States be displayed on all public buildings on the appointed day in honor of Christopher Columbus.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this first day of October, 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 5717 of October 1, 1987

United Nations Day, 1987

By the President of the United States of America
A Proclamation

United Nations Day is an opportunity for us to reemphasize the principles upon which the United Nations was founded. The framers of the United Nations Charter envisioned a world where nations live together in freedom, justice, and peace, a world with universal and reciprocal respect for human rights and human dignity.

The United Nations General Assembly took a historic first step last year by adopting reforms aimed at strengthening the organization's effectiveness and efficiency. The ideals of the United Nations are important to the United States. We are committed to working closely with other member states and with the Secretary General to see that the reforms are faithfully implemented and to secure the organization's future.

We are pleased that reform efforts are extending to the specialized and technical agencies of the United Nations. These agencies are not well-known, but do affect us directly and on a daily basis. For instance, the Weather Watch of the World Meteorological Organization helps us know when and where storms will hit American cities. The International Maritime Organization and International Civil Aviation Organization work for safety on the seas and in the skies for American travelers. The Food and Agricultural Organization saves U.S. farmers, foresters, and fishermen countless dollars in damage every year. The International Atomic Energy Agency helps promote international cooperation and safeguards regarding nuclear technology, and the World Health Organization coordinates global efforts against AIDS.