

Senior Citizens Day. I call upon the people of the United States to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

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

RONALD REAGAN

Proclamation 5848 of August 22, 1988

Neurofibromatosis Awareness Month, 1989

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Neurofibromatosis is a potentially debilitating genetic disorder that causes tumors to develop in nervous system tissues. It affects one in 3,700 Americans. There are two known types of neurofibromatosis. The great majority of patients have NF-1, characterized by six or more dark patches on the skin and by tumors on peripheral nerves. The tumors can be severely disfiguring and painful and can also result in bone deformations and visual impairment. In the less common NF-2, tumors occur within the central nervous system, usually damaging nerves crucial to hearing and balance.

Individuals with neurofibromatosis, their families, and the health professionals who help them can all benefit from new guidelines for the diagnosis and management of this condition developed last year in a consensus conference at the National Institutes of Health. At the conference, scientists studying the genetics of neurofibromatosis presented particularly encouraging findings: They have determined that the gene defect that causes NF-1 lies on chromosome 17, and the defect for NF-2 on chromosome 22. These discoveries, medical experts agree, should soon lead to the development of diagnostic tests capable of definitively detecting neurofibromatosis gene carriers. As more is learned about the genetic defects in neurofibromatosis, scientists will be better able to design treatment strategies to assist those afflicted.

Private voluntary health agencies, chiefly the National Neurofibromatosis Foundation, are partners with the National Institute of Neurological and Communicative Disorders and Stroke in the fight against this tragic disorder. Countless families have been sustained and encouraged by support groups established by these agencies in most large American cities. These agencies also play an essential role in informing the health care professions and the general public about neurofibromatosis, about the needs of patients and families, and about the positive actions we can all undertake to ease their burdens.

To enhance public awareness of neurofibromatosis, the Congress, by House Joint Resolution 417, has designated May 1989 as "Neurofibromatosis Awareness Month" and authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of that occasion.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RONALD REAGAN, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim May 1989 as Neurofibromatosis

Awareness Month. I call upon the people of the United States to observe this month with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

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

RONALD REAGAN

Proclamation 5849 of August 25, 1988

National Drive for Life Weekend, 1988

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

Deaths from drunk driving on America's highways occur every hour of every day throughout the year. On average, someone is killed every 22 minutes, 65 people a day. Almost 24,000 people lost their lives last year in crashes involving alcohol.

These are not remote statistics. Two out of every five individuals in the United States will be involved in an alcohol-related crash at some time during their lives. Each of us is therefore a potential victim.

Our risk is greater on weekends, when alcohol consumption is heavier, and greatest on holiday weekends. We must remember, as we celebrate, that alcohol can turn a holiday into a tragedy. The responsibility belongs to each of us to see that this does not happen.

If we can begin with a single step, a single weekend, on which each of us can make a commitment not to drink and drive, it may be that we can demonstrate how individual commitments can produce life-saving results nationwide. Last year, a coalition headed by Mothers Against Drunk Driving sponsored the first National Drive for Life Day, campaigning for all Americans to pledge not to drink and drive on that day. The success of that first day has prompted calls for an expanded campaign.

The Congress, by Senate Joint Resolution 350, has designated the Labor Day weekend beginning on September 3, 1988, as "National Drive for Life Weekend" and authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of that weekend.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RONALD REAGAN, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim the Labor Day weekend beginning September 3, 1988, as National Drive for Life Weekend. I ask each American to help improve the safety of our highways by pledging not to drink and drive on that weekend. I call upon the Governors of the States, Puerto Rico, the Northern Mariana Islands, the Virgin Islands, Guam, and American Samoa, the Mayor of the District of Columbia, and the people of the United States to observe this weekend with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-fifth day of August, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and eighty-