

search Day, 1988, gives us the opportunity to pause in gratitude for all that American medical research has done through the decades to save lives and preserve health.

The progress made by today's medical researchers is part of a long tradition in American biomedical research. In the past century, researchers have triumphed over such formerly deadly diseases as diphtheria, polio, and tetanus. Furthermore, vaccines and treatments developed in America's biomedical laboratories have helped lead to virtually global elimination of formerly deadly epidemics such as cholera, smallpox, yellow fever, and bubonic plague. Medical research has also resulted in the development of new drugs and surgical procedures and improved understanding of environmental and behavioral components of individual health. These advances have benefited Americans and all humanity.

Such successes occur because of our continuing commitment to such Federal agencies as the National Institutes of Health; the Alcohol, Drug Abuse, and Mental Health Administration; and the Centers for Disease Control, which support studies not only in their own laboratories, but also at universities and research institutions throughout the country; and because of the work of academia, industry, and voluntary organizations. Such cooperation in medical research has led to products that contribute to America's economy and to our Nation's ability to compete successfully in international trade.

The investment of the United States in biomedical research continues, and so does our national commitment to training those who will conduct this research in the years to come.

In recognition of American medical research, the Congress, by Senate Joint Resolution 328, has designated September 14, 1988, as "National Medical Research Day" and authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this day.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RONALD REAGAN, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim September 14, 1988, as National Medical Research Day, and I call upon the people of the United States and Federal, State, and local government officials to observe this day with appropriate events and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this fourteenth day of September, 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 5862 of September 14, 1988**

**Fire Prevention Week, 1988**

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

We consider fire an essential part of our daily lives, because with it we cook our food, heat our homes, and generate the energy that fuels busi-

nesses and industries across our country. But uncontrolled, fire becomes an enemy that threatens our homes, friends, and families.

Fire exacts a heavy price in the United States, disproportionately striking young people and senior citizens. Fire is deadliest in the home, where it can strike without warning, late at night, when we are least prepared to defend ourselves. Each year, hundreds of thousands of fires in the home cause thousands of civilian deaths and injuries, and billions in direct property damage.

Human error is largely responsible for the tragedy of fire in the home—and human intervention can do much to stop that tragedy. Each of us has the ability to prevent needless suffering from the destructive power of fire.

This fall, Fire Prevention Week will be an opportunity for Americans to show their best, as they help one another learn and practice fire safety steps. The tools we need to protect our homes and our loved ones from fire are simple. This year, the National Fire Prevention Week theme, "A Sound You Can Live With—Test Your Smoke Detector!", emphasizes easy steps we can take to give us valuable time to escape a home fire.

During Fire Prevention Week, all Americans should test their home smoke detectors, replace the batteries if needed, and learn the simple maintenance practices that will keep a smoke detector ready to protect the home. Replacing batteries and keeping a smoke detector dust- and dirt-free are a small investment of time that can make possible the precious minutes members of a household need to reach safety. Families across America should also use Fire Prevention Week as a time to practice a home escape plan. We should likewise spend time checking our homes for fire dangers—improperly stored flammable liquids; electrical problems; creosote buildup in chimneys; lack of spacing around home heating equipment such as woodstoves, or flammable materials too close to portable heaters; and other hazards.

Every small measure we as individuals take to prevent fire increases the level of fire safety throughout our country. Many organizations dedicated to fire safety across the United States will sponsor activities during Fire Prevention Week; they deserve our cooperation and gratitude. These organizations include the National Fire Protection Association, the International Association of Fire Fighters, the International Association of Fire Chiefs, the National Volunteer Fire Council, the International Society of Fire Service Instructors, the Fire Marshals Association of North America, and all the organizations that belong to the Joint Council of National Fire Service Organizations.

We should honor the dedicated men and women of these organizations, especially the thousands of fire fighters throughout the United States. We pay special honor to the selfless fire fighters who have made the ultimate sacrifice, losing their lives in the line of duty so that others might live.

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 the week of October 9 through October 15, 1988, as Fire Prevention Week, and I call upon the people of the United States to plan and actively participate in fire prevention activities during this week and throughout the year.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this fourteenth day of September, 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 5863 of September 15, 1988**

**Mental Illness Awareness Week, 1988**

*By the President of the United States of America*

*A Proclamation*

Mental Illness Awareness Week, 1988, offers all Americans a welcome and much-needed chance to expand their knowledge about the nature, causes, and treatments of mental illness and to grow in understanding concerning those afflicted; their families; and appropriate attitudes toward, and assistance for, victims of mental illness. This is an opportunity we surely should utilize, because it can do much good throughout our land.

The 20th century has seen more and more recognition of the role of disease processes in mental disorders. This message has reached millions, but pockets of misinformation, prejudice, and misunderstanding remain. Everyone should be aware that research has discovered many genetic, biochemical, and environmental causes of mental dysfunction. Further, changes in medicine and technology are taking place so rapidly that many citizens have not yet heard of vital recent advances that allow health professionals to diagnose and treat many forms of mental illness with increasing effectiveness.

We have also learned that people can take purposeful steps toward improving the lives of their loved ones, friends, and fellow citizens who are affected by mental illness—and that many of the burdens experienced by family members as they care for the mentally ill should and can be shared by the wider community. During Mental Illness Awareness Week and all year long, we can recall and be thankful for our continuing progress into diagnosis, treatment, assistance, and understanding for all those of every age and condition who cannot reach their potential or lead independent, fulfilling lives because of mental illness. Let us also resolve to put into practice, as individuals and in private and community efforts, all that we have learned and achieved regarding ways to help, encourage, and befriend mentally ill Americans and their families.

The Congress, by Public Law 100-390, has designated the week of October 2 through October 8, 1988, as "Mental Illness Awareness Week" and authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation in its observance.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RONALD REAGAN, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim the week of October 2 through October 8, 1988, as Mental Illness Awareness Week. I call upon the people of the United States to observe this week with ceremonies and activities that will enhance the well-being of our Nation by increasing