

forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle." The Northwest Ordinance of 1787, which the Congress reenacted in 1789, similarly stated, "Religion, morality, and knowledge being necessary to good government and the happiness of mankind, schools and the means of learning shall forever be encouraged."

The Founders realized that we must guard freedom of religion with eternal vigilance against tyranny and bigotry. Washington emphasized this in a letter to Moses Seixas of the Hebrew Congregation of Touro Synagogue in Newport, Rhode Island, in 1790. Our first President noted Americans' "liberty of conscience and immunities of citizenship" and said that it was not "by the indulgence of one class of people that another enjoyed the exercise, of their inherent natural rights." Rather, "happily the Government of the United States, . . . gives to bigotry no sanction, to persecution no assistance. . . ."

President Washington proudly called this policy "enlarged and liberal" and "worthy of imitation." Through the years, Americans of goodwill have echoed these sentiments, seeking freedom, brotherhood, justice, and reconciliation. We will always do so if we continue to revere the First Amendment's protection of religious freedom.

The Congress, by House Joint Resolution 518, has designated the week of September 25, 1988, as "Religious Freedom Week."

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 beginning September 25, 1988, as Religious Freedom Week. I urge the people of the United States to observe this week with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-seventh 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 5867 of September 28, 1988**

### **National Sewing Month, 1988**

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

Americans are naturally proud of their practical genius; their love and mastery of domestic crafts, handed down from generation to generation, are among our prime national virtues. Throughout American history, one such craft has been the art of sewing. National Sewing Month, 1988, celebrates the American tradition of sewing in the home and salutes the estimated 90 million citizens who partake of its challenges and rewards.

Home sewing is an enjoyable and productive pastime that serves a variety of useful purposes. For instance, it inspires people to pursue

sewing-related occupations; sewing skills learned at home or during more formal instruction help foster lifelong careers in fields such as fashion, pattern-making, retail merchandising, and interior and textile design. Many people find that home sewing is a boon to friendship among neighbors, or a good way for caring citizens to assist their fellowman through volunteer projects. Sewing's closest link to most of us, however, is undoubtedly its familiarity as a part of daily life in the home. That is because the sewing circle has so often been a link between grandparents, parents, and children; in its pleasures and satisfactions are found both a sense of individual accomplishment and an intuition of a larger human endeavor. In this way, a basic skill of family life is passed on, and an ancient art made new.

These are all very good reasons for America to celebrate National Sewing Month, 1988, with heartfelt appreciation for the talents and achievements of those among us who sew in the home.

In recognition of the importance of home sewing to the United States, the Congress, by House Joint Resolution 580, has designated September 1988 as "National Sewing Month" and authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this event.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RONALD REAGAN, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim September 1988 as National Sewing 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-eighth 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 5868 of September 28, 1988**

### **National American Indian Heritage Week, 1988**

*By the President of the United States of America*

*A Proclamation*

National American Indian Heritage Week, 1988, offers us a fine opportunity to reflect upon the profound, many-sided, and lasting impact of American Indians and their forebears on our Nation, history, and way of life. During this time, we can all join American Indians and Alaska Natives in celebrating their ancient and diverse heritages. We can also thank them for their achievements in every area of endeavor.

Those achievements continue today. Despite past periods of conflict and changes in Indian affairs policies, the government-to-government relationship between the United States and Indian tribes has endured. The Constitution, treaties, laws, and court decisions have consistently recognized a unique political relationship between tribal elected governments and the United States. We look to a future of increasing economic independence and self-sufficiency on Indian reservations, and we support efforts to foster greater Indian control of Indian resources.