

the cause of liberty and self-government during the Revolutionary War. Activities in support of this goal help us to remember the tremendous debt we owe to them.

The Congress, by Senate Joint Resolution 84, has designated April 30, 1989, as "National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution Centennial Day" and authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this occasion.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE BUSH, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim April 30, 1989, as National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution Centennial Day, and 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 twenty-eighth day of April, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and eighty-nine, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirteenth.

GEORGE BUSH

Proclamation 5966 of May 1, 1989

Jewish Heritage Week, 1989

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

The rich heritage of the Jewish people has been an inspiration to Americans since the founding of our Nation. The Judaic traditions of defending freedom, promoting justice, and assisting those in need are embraced by our Nation's own laws and customs.

Like so many others, Jews came to the United States in search of freedom and a chance to build a better life. They found this land rich in educational and economic opportunities and have taken advantage of them. In return, they have made important contributions to every sphere of American life, from medicine and academia to the arts, business, and community service.

At this time of year, it is appropriate to reflect on the suffering in recent Jewish history, as well as the grounds for hope. In early May, we commemorate the courage and faith of the six million European Jews who perished at the hands of Nazis between 1939 and 1945. On May 10, we celebrate 41 years of Israeli independence. The establishment and survival of the State of Israel following the Holocaust is a powerful reminder that hope can conquer tragedy and that freedom can survive even the most ruthless attempts to defeat it. Its anniversary is a fitting occasion for Americans to rededicate ourselves to the cause of liberty and justice for all.

The Congress, by Senate Joint Resolution 25, has designated the period of May 7 through May 14, 1989, as "Jewish Heritage Week" and has requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this event.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE BUSH, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim the week of May 7 through May 14, 1989, as "Jewish Heritage Week." I call upon the American people, State and local government agencies, and interested organizations to observe this week with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs.

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

GEORGE BUSH

Proclamation 5967 of May 2, 1989

National Maritime Day, 1989

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

In the pages of our Nation's history, merchant seafarers rightly occupy an honored place. The American merchant marine has not only made important contributions to our economic development, but has also helped our country make effective responses to military challenges.

The value of merchant craft in wartime operations was first demonstrated during the Revolution, when they supplemented the 34 ships of the small Continental Navy. These vessels wrought havoc on enemy shipping, capturing or sinking some 600 British merchant vessels. Those losses intensified the mounting pressure on Parliament to end the war.

In this century, their support has been crucial—and their sacrifices heroic—in many armed conflicts. During World War II alone, despite enemy attacks which sank more than 700 U.S.-flag merchant ships and claimed the lives of more than 6,000 civilian seafarers, they transported the troops and kept open the supply lines that led ultimately to victory.

Clearly we owe our valiant merchant mariners an enormous debt of gratitude. Last year I joined millions of Americans in welcoming the news that these seafarers had finally received the official recognition they deserve as veterans of war.

In recognition of the importance of the U.S. merchant marine, the Congress, by joint resolution approved May 20, 1933, has designated May 22 of each year as "National Maritime Day" and has authorized and requested the President to issue annually a proclamation calling for its appropriate observance. This date was chosen to commemorate the day in 1819 when the SS SAVANNAH left Savannah, Georgia, on the first transatlantic steamship voyage.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE BUSH, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim May 22, 1989, as National Maritime Day. I urge the people of the United States to observe this day by displaying the flag of the United States at their homes and other suitable places, and I request that all ships sailing under the American flag dress ship on that day.