

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.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this second 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 5968 of May 2, 1989**

**Fire Prevention Week, 1989**

*By the President of the United States of America*

*A Proclamation*

During the past year, fire claimed the lives of almost 6,000 of our fellow citizens. Many thousands more were severely injured by fire, and billions of dollars of property was destroyed. Eighty-five percent of the deaths caused by fire last year occurred in residential properties. Fire is especially devastating to the most vulnerable members of our society: children and the elderly.

This year, the United States Fire Administration has launched a campaign aimed at the very young entitled "Curious Kids Set Fires." The National Fire Protection Association, the originator of Fire Prevention Week, has selected a companion theme: "Big Fires Start Small: Keep matches and lighters in the right hands." Complementing these efforts is a private sector initiative, "Plan to Get Out Alive," a house escape planning program developed with the assistance of the U.S. Fire Administration. All of these programs are designed to make the American public more aware of the dangers of fire in their homes.

I commend the efforts of public officials, firefighters, business leaders, and community and volunteer organizations who are working together to bring about a safer America. I especially commend the men and women of the American fire service—volunteer and career—who risk injury and death to protect the lives and property of their fellow citizens.

The great risks and sacrifices involved in their work are clearly evidenced each year during the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Services at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland. On October 15 of this year, the families of firefighters killed in the line of duty and representatives of the Nation's fire service will gather from all over America to honor and pray for the 126 heroic individuals who perished in 1988.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE BUSH, 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 October 8, 1989, as Fire Prevention Week. I call upon the people of the United States to plan and actively participate in fire prevention activities not only this week, but throughout the year. I also ask all Americans to pay tribute to those firefighters who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our safety.