

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 5969 of May 3, 1989

Smith-Lever Act 75th Anniversary, 1989

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

For 75 years, the Cooperative Extension Service has made significant contributions to U.S. agriculture by helping rural Americans to apply the latest techniques and state-of-the-art technology to everyday farming.

In 1914, Hoke Smith, a Senator from Georgia, and Asbury Lever, a Congressman from South Carolina, proposed the creation of the Cooperative Extension Service as the educational arm of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The Smith-Lever Act—which President Wilson signed into law on May 8, 1914—established the Cooperative Extension System as a partnership between the U.S. Department of Agriculture and State land-grant universities. Today this beneficial System includes offices in nearly all of the Nation's 3,150 counties, cities, and boroughs, at Tuskegee University, and at land-grant institutions in the 50 States and six territories. In celebrating the 75th Anniversary of the Smith-Lever Act, we pay tribute to our dedicated Extension System educators.

The Cooperative Extension System has done much to ensure that rural and urban adults and youth have the opportunity to develop to their full potential. The System has built on the spirit and traditions of its founders, successfully adapting to new challenges over the years, while assisting the American farm family with the efficient production of a reliable supply of food and fiber for consumers in our country and around the world. System employees and the three million volunteers who ably assist them help individual farmers, families, and communities to apply research-generated knowledge and leadership techniques to the problems facing American agriculture today.

In recognition of the contributions of the Cooperative Extension System, the Congress, by House Joint Resolution 124, has authorized and requested the issuance of a proclamation to commemorate the enactment of the Smith-Lever Act of May 8, 1914.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE BUSH, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim May 8, 1989, as the 75th Anniversary of the signing of the Smith-Lever Act of 1914. 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 third 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 5970 of May 4, 1989

Older Americans Month, 1989

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

Throughout the history of the United States, older Americans have had a profound role in shaping the character and destiny of our Nation. From the days of Ben Franklin, who was 81 years old when he helped to frame our Constitution, to the present time, older Americans have blessed us with their wisdom and leadership. Each May, during Older Americans Month, we express our respect and gratitude to these valued members of our society.

The contributions of older individuals are evident in virtually every aspect of American life: in government, business and industry, and in science and the arts. Today, millions of older Americans are remaining in the work force well past the traditional "retirement age." In fact, many senior citizens are pursuing second careers, while others continue to contribute to our communities and Nation through volunteer work.

All older Americans—whether they hold jobs, volunteer, or quietly devote their time to family and friends—enrich our lives beyond measure. Therefore, let us honor them not only during Older Americans Month, but throughout the year. Let us always show our appreciation for senior citizens by respecting, in policy as well as practice, their rights and dignity. We can demonstrate our commitment to that end by helping older persons to maintain their independence, and by protecting them from exploitation and discrimination.

Let us also remember that, while most older Americans are healthy and active, some need special care and attention. Across the United States, thousands of community groups, religious societies, voluntary service organizations, and government agencies are working to help meet the special needs of elderly Americans. As individuals and as a Nation, we must ensure that every community provides the services and opportunities that older Americans need and deserve.

The Congress, by Senate Joint Resolution 45, has recognized the month of May 1989, as "Older Americans Month," and has requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this month.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE BUSH, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim the month of May 1989 as Older Americans Month. I call upon the American people to observe this month with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this fourth day of May, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and eighty-nine, and