

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

of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirteenth.

GEORGE BUSH

Proclamation 5971 of May 5, 1989

World Trade Week, 1989

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

At no other time in U.S. history has international commerce been so important to domestic economic growth. Increased exports mean prosperity for America. World Trade Week provides an excellent opportunity for American business men and women to reaffirm their commitment to the pursuit of export markets.

Trade figures for the past year indicate that American businesses are moving in the right direction. U.S. export performance during 1988 was responsible for the highest growth rate this decade and the largest reduction in the trade deficit in history. During 1988, U.S. merchandise exports grew 28 percent, reaching record levels (\$320 billion). These exports generated 40 percent of real GNP growth during the year and contributed to the creation of a near record number of jobs. An improved global economic climate and measurable improvements in the quality of American goods and services contributed to this promising export performance.

The favorable market conditions that made our goods and services competitive in 1988 continue to exist in 1989, and U.S. businesses must take full advantage of this situation. American industry can benefit substantially from trade opportunities created by recent events in the world marketplace. For example, when the historic United States-Canada Free-Trade Agreement entered into force on January 1, 1989, it heralded the beginning of a new era in America's economic relations with our largest trading partner. It also created abundant opportunities for U.S. firms to reach the market offered by our 26 million neighbors to the north.

The European Community's formation of a single market by the year 1992 has the potential to provide even more trading opportunities for American business. However, U.S. firms need to prepare for 1992 now if they are to realize greater export sales.

This Administration is committed to forging a partnership with our Nation's business community to help ensure continued economic prosperity and growth into the 1990's. Trade and U.S. competitiveness are top priorities. I am firmly committed to opening world markets to U.S. exports and promoting our free trade agenda on both multilateral and bilateral levels.

The United States led in initiating the current round of General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) negotiations, and we shall remain vigilant in our efforts to ensure that the GATT negotiations result in a