

cedures as well as the rules and courtesies of the waterways. Because safe boating is not a simple proposition and because there is much information every operator needs to know before going out on the water, the theme of the 1989 National Safe Boating Week is "Know Before You Go." All boaters, especially those who operate small vessels for fishing, hunting, and other sports, need to know the craft they are using and the environment in which they will be operating. Most important, all boaters should know their own personal limitations and responsibilities so they do not lead themselves and others into situations beyond their skill or physical endurance.

The majority of boating accidents are the result of pilot error; ignorance and intoxication are major threats to safety. Boaters should be aware that operating a vessel while under the influence of alcohol or drugs is not only dangerous and irresponsible, but also a Federal offense punishable by substantial civil and criminal penalties. Those using watercraft must be well-informed, sober, and prepared to deal with hazardous situations.

Safe boating is the responsibility of everyone who uses America's waterways. Let us all join with the Coast Guard Auxiliary, the U.S. Power Squadrons, the American Red Cross Water Safety Program, and the other member organizations of the National Safe Boating Council in making National Safe Boating Week the start of a major campaign to educate boaters to "know before they go."

In recognition of the need for boating safety, the Congress, by a joint resolution approved June 4, 1958 (36 U.S.C. 161), as amended, authorized and requested the President to proclaim annually the week commencing on the first Sunday in June as National Safe Boating Week.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE BUSH, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim the week beginning June 4, 1989, as National Safe Boating Week. I also invite the Governors of the States, Puerto Rico, the Northern Mariana Islands, the Virgin Islands, Guam, and American Samoa and the Mayor of the District of Columbia to provide for the observance of this week.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-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 5988 of June 7, 1989**

### **Flag Day and National Flag Week, 1989**

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

While the American flag has changed through the years, the principles for which it stands have not.

The Stars and Stripes were adopted as our Nation's emblem on June 14, 1777, when the delegates to the Continental Congress resolved "that

the flag of the thirteen United States be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation." This design captured the character of our fledgling Nation—while each State retained its distinct identity, all were united in the struggle to secure America's freedom and independence. The stars portraying the United States as a new constellation conveyed the shining promise of this land of liberty and opportunity.

Over the years, as more States were formed and added to the Union, the flag changed in appearance. Today, it boasts 50 stars, each representing one of the 50 States. What time and history have not altered are the ideals celebrated by the Stars and Stripes: America's dedication to individual liberty and her respect for the God-given rights of all men. The flag's brilliant colors continue to reflect the diversity of the American people, while its tightly woven fabric recalls our national unity.

As our national emblem, the flag should be treated with reverence. Our regard for the flag is a measure of our respect for the men and women who devoted their lives to this noble experiment in self-government; for the veterans who have carried Old Glory into battle; and for the pioneers who have carried it across the continent, to the ends of the earth, and even into space. When we turn to the flag with head held high and hand over heart, we give due honor to those who have fashioned and defended the great Republic for which it stands.

It is our solemn duty to ensure that the Stars and Stripes remain a symbol of a land that is good and free. We have a responsibility to ensure that generations yet unborn will be able to lift the flag with the same pride and sense of purpose as those who carried it at Yorktown, Gettysburg, Iwo Jima, and in every campaign for peace and liberty around the world. On Flag Day, and during National Flag Week, let us rededicate ourselves to the ideals of our forebears, so that our own children and grandchildren can always look to Old Glory as the emblem of "one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

To commemorate the adoption of our flag, the Congress, by a joint resolution approved August 3, 1949 (63 Stat. 492), designated June 14 of each year as Flag Day and requested the President to issue an annual proclamation calling for its observance and for the display of the flag of the United States on all government buildings. The Congress also requested the President, by joint resolution approved June 9, 1966 (80 Stat. 194), to issue annually a proclamation designating the week in which June 14 occurs as National Flag Week and calling upon all citizens of the United States to display the flag during that week.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE BUSH, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim June 14, 1989, as Flag Day and the week beginning June 11 as National Flag Week. I direct the appropriate officials of the government to display the flag of the United States on all government buildings during that week. I urge all Americans to observe Flag Day, June 14, and Flag Week by flying the Stars and Stripes from their homes and other suitable places.

I also urge the American people to celebrate those days from Flag Day through Independence Day, also set aside by the Congress (89 Stat. 211), as a time to honor America by having public gatherings and ac-

tivities at which they can honor their country in an appropriate manner, including publicly reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this seventh day of June, 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 5989 of June 9, 1989**

**Father's Day, 1989**

*By the President of the United States of America*

*A Proclamation*

By tradition, the third Sunday in June is designated Father's Day. Each year, we Americans observe this special day with renewed appreciation for the many gifts fathers bestow upon their children and the Nation.

When a father cradles his first child in his arms he knows that he holds the wonder of life itself. In that tender moment, he becomes aware of the endless rewards and awesome responsibilities of fatherhood.

A father sees the future not as some distant time and remote concern, but as the place in history where his children will dwell. He thus regards the world with a profound sense of stewardship, taking active interest in the course of current events and pursuing every endeavor as an investment in his children's well-being.

Though their gratitude may often go unspoken, children long remember their father's affection, hard work, and generosity. The simple joys of dad's piggyback rides, patient coaching, and countless little treats and surprises are memories that a child cherishes forever. What teenage girl who has winced at her father's scrutiny of her prom date, what boy who has rolled his eyes at dad's familiar lecture on driving carefully, has not also recognized these paternal "offenses" as signs of love and concern?

Most children, however, do not fully appreciate their father's concerns and sacrifices until they have children of their own. A father will carry the weight of the world on his shoulders for his family, but he will also leave the world and its distractions behind when his children need an attentive listener or another player in a game of catch. Though he may be worried about everything from a sick baby to the cost of shoes, his children are touched only by his quiet strength and faith in God.

Fathers also provide an example of discipline, concern, and commitment. Children learn from their fathers that unconditional love is the foundation of a family and that it cannot exist apart from respect, consideration, faithfulness, and responsibility. A father, in shaping the character of his children, helps to shape the character of our Nation.