

Proclamation 6031 of September 29, 1989**National Quality Month, 1989**

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

Producing quality goods and services is crucial not only to the continued economic growth of the United States, but also to our national security and the well-being of each American family. Our Nation has long been recognized for its leadership in producing quality products. However, in recent years, the position of the United States as quality leader has been challenged by foreign competition in domestic and overseas markets.

Reasserting our leadership position will require a firm commitment to total quality management and the principle of continuous quality improvement. The United States can, and must, excel in this area, setting new standards for world-class quality and competing vigorously in international markets.

Improving quality takes time and resources and can only be achieved through a combination of factors. It takes a long-term commitment by management that involves working with suppliers to improve performance; educating, training, and motivating workers; developing accurate and responsive information systems; and establishing targets for quality improvement.

Quality improvement principles apply to small companies as well as large corporations, to service industries as well as manufacturing, and to the public sector as well as private enterprise. Improving the quality of goods and services goes hand in hand with improving productivity and lowering costs. It is also essential to enhancing worker fulfillment and customer satisfaction.

Private sector organizations and government institutions across the country are joining forces to promote a national commitment to excellence. At the national, regional, and local level, business executives and public officials are working together to develop the skills and techniques needed for producing quality goods and services.

As part of this important effort, the Federal Government is promoting quality through such programs as the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award of the Department of Commerce, the Federal Quality Institute, the President's Council on Management Improvement, the Productivity Improvement Plan of the Department of Defense, and the NASA Excellence Award for Quality and Productivity.

The American Society for Quality Control—together with other national professional organizations, businesses, industries, government agencies, and academic institutions—is sponsoring activities in observance of "National Quality Month." These activities, focused on the theme of "Quality First," are designed to promote awareness of the importance of quality to production and services throughout the United States.

The Congress, by House Joint Resolution 204, has designated October as "National Quality Month" and has authorized and 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 October 1989 as National Quality Month. I call upon the people of the United States to observe this occasion with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-ninth day of September, 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 fourteenth.

GEORGE BUSH

Proclamation 6032 of September 29, 1989

Mental Illness Awareness Week, 1989

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

The 20th century has been marked by major advances in medical research and technology. Today, we can easily prevent or cure many diseases that once proved to be debilitating or even deadly. Because this remarkable scientific progress has included the study of mental illness, scientists and health care professionals now have a much greater understanding of such afflictions as depression, schizophrenia, phobias, and anxiety disorders.

During the past 10 years alone, our knowledge of mental illness has increased dramatically. Indeed, our ever-expanding knowledge of the brain might well be considered one of the most profound accomplishments of our time. That is why continued failure to diagnose or treat mental illness—and to accept and understand those who suffer from it—is so needless and so regrettable. Far too many mentally ill Americans are also victims of fear, prejudice, and distrust. Mental illness not only inhibits their ability to function normally in society, but also inflicts untold personal anguish upon them and their loved ones.

Frequently the result of biological or chemical disorders in the brain, mental illness can affect anyone—regardless of age, gender, race, or economic status. For a child or adolescent, a mental illness left untreated can mean years of torment, as well as lost opportunities to learn and grow. Adults who suffer from mental illness may not only lose their independence and ability to contribute, but also become strangers to their families and friends. Elderly victims can enjoy neither the comforts of retirement nor the well-earned respect and dignity rightfully afforded to our senior citizens. Tragically, the confusion, alienation, and loss of hope felt by some victims of mental illness—young and old alike—have even led them to take their own lives.

We can—and we must—help the victims of mental illness. Of the millions of Americans who suffer from depression, well over half could benefit from proper treatment. Scientific research has produced treatments that can alleviate the hallucinations and delusions that haunt victims of schizophrenia. There are also treatments, including medications and various forms of psychotherapy, to allay crippling panic and anxiety disorders and to help patients overcome dysfunctional behav-