

Today, the United States continues to look to its veterans as leaders. They have carried their patriotism and concern for others far beyond the battlefield, participating in all levels of government, community groups, charitable organizations and voluntary service programs. Across the country, individual veterans and veterans associations are helping to provide health care for ill and disabled colleagues. They are rallying to join the war on drugs and the campaign for better schools. And they are helping to foster in young people a genuine love of country and a profound sense of personal duty, honor, and civic responsibility.

We Americans owe a great debt to all our military veterans, who have shown us—in peacetime as well as times of strife—the value of individual liberty and free and democratic government. Today, let us renew our determination to keep faith with those who have so faithfully served and defended us. We can begin by remembering the cause for which they have labored and by working hard to ensure that their efforts have not been made in vain.

In order that we may pay due tribute to those who have served in our Armed Forces, the Congress has provided (5 U.S.C. 6103(a)) that November 11 of each year shall be set aside as a legal public holiday to honor America's veterans.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE BUSH, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim Saturday, November 11, 1989, as Veterans Day. I urge all Americans to honor the courage and sacrifice of our veterans through appropriate public ceremonies and private prayers. I also call upon Federal, State, and local government officials to display the flag of the United States and to encourage and participate in patriotic activities in their communities. I invite civic and fraternal organizations, churches, schools, businesses, unions, and the media to support this national observance with suitable commemorative expressions and programs.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this fifth day of October, 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

Editorial note: For the President's remarks of Oct. 5, 1989, on signing Proclamation 6038, see the *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents*, (vol. 25, p. 1507).

Proclamation 6039 of October 5, 1989

National Children's Day, 1989

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

Children are a great and precious blessing. Parents have no greater responsibility than to ensure that the young stranger God brings into their lives is welcomed, loved, nourished, and protected. As a Nation,

we have no greater obligation than to help provide every child with the opportunity to grow up healthy, safe, and well-educated.

Children not only bring joy to their families; they also bring a sense of hope and purpose to the entire Nation. Parents, grandparents, and all adults can, and do, learn a great deal from the young. As we assist a child who is struggling to complete the tasks we take for granted, we are reminded of the importance of being gentle and patient. Fascinated by the countless little miracles of creation, which we grown-ups so often overlook as we rush to meet the demands of the adult world, children help us to see the world around us as if it were fresh and new. Filled with imagination and dreams, they take us into the future—and inspire us to be responsible for it.

As a Nation, we owe it to our children to encourage and help parents and families. Family life is important in promoting not only each child's spiritual, social, and intellectual growth, but also the strength of our Nation. When the hope and trust of a child are violated or destroyed, so, too, is a portion of the promise that he or she holds for our country's future. Because parents are a child's first and best friends, and because home is his or her first school, we must remain committed to policies and programs that recognize and reinforce the family as the primary source of the love and support that every child needs.

Children in the United States have the opportunity to grow up in a land of unparalleled prosperity and freedom. However, we must remember that our children need much more than material goods. We must also remember the importance of teaching them the difference between liberty and license, for one is rooted in respect for human dignity, while the other only diminishes it. Children need attention and affection and positive role models. It is important that parents take the time not only to give their children guidance, but also to listen to them. The greatest gifts we can share with our little ones are a love of learning, an appreciation for the power of faith and hard work, and a sense of personal responsibility and concern for others.

Children both affirm and inspire their parents' faith in the future. As parents, teachers, neighbors, and as a Nation, we must make every effort to ensure that young people's own faith is not jaded by abuse or neglect or simple indifference. So, today, as we honor children, let us also renew our determination to ensure that they receive all the love, protection, and encouragement they need and deserve.

The Congress, by House Joint Resolution 132 (Public Law 101-52), has designated the second Sunday in October 1989 as "National Children's Day" and has authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of that day.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE BUSH, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim October 8, 1989, as National Children's Day. I call upon the American people to observe that day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities designed to honor children and to emphasize the importance of their well-being to our entire Nation. I also urge all Americans to reflect upon the importance of children to our families, as well as the importance of strong families to our children.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this fifth day of October, 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 6040 of October 6, 1989

Columbus Day, 1989

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

On Columbus Day, we pause as a Nation to honor the skilled and courageous navigator who discovered the Americas and, in so doing, brought to our ancestors the promise of the New World. In honoring Christopher Columbus, we also pay tribute to the generations of brave and bold Americans who, like him, have overcome great odds in order to chart the unknown.

For nearly half a millennium, Americans have followed the example of this great explorer, challenging the frontiers of knowledge. Throughout our Nation's history, the spirit of discovery has been demonstrated by scholar and student, expert and novice, alike. While the efforts of men such as Lewis and Clark, Thomas Edison, Eli Whitney, and Alexander Graham Bell are well known, we should also remember the thousands of pioneers who quietly tamed the American wilderness. With courage, ingenuity, hard work, and sacrifice, these men and women helped to build a Nation.

Generations of American entrepreneurs and business people have likewise accepted great risks in order to pursue their dreams. Their vision and initiative, allowed to flourish in this land of liberty, have helped the United States grow strong and prosperous.

From test pilots and astronauts to scientists and researchers in virtually every field of endeavor, Americans have continued to explore not only the wonders of our planet, but also the great mysteries of space. Like Christopher Columbus, all of these Americans have faced the unknown, not with a reckless sense of adventure, but with a great sense of purpose and opportunity.

Just a few years from now, in 1992, the United States will commemorate the 500th anniversary of the arrival of Columbus on these shores and proudly participate in events honoring this great explorer. A number of educational and commemorative events and programs are also being planned by the members of the Christopher Columbus Quincentenary Jubilee Commission, which was established by the Congress in 1984.

Americans of Italian and Spanish descent will have special reason to join in this quincentenary celebration. As we reflect on the achievements of this famous son of Genoa, and the generous support he received from Spanish monarchs Ferdinand V and Isabella I, we are also