

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

reminded of the many contributions that men and women of Italian and Spanish descent have made and continue to make to our Nation.

In tribute to Christopher Columbus, the Congress of the United States, by joint resolution of April 30, 1934 (48 Stat. 657), as modified by the Act of June 28, 1968 (82 Stat. 250), has requested the President to proclaim the second Monday in October of each year as "Columbus Day."

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE BUSH, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim October 9, 1989, as Columbus Day. I call upon the people of the United States to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities. I also direct that the flag of the United States be displayed on all public buildings on the appointed day in honor of Christopher Columbus.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this sixth 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 6041 of October 6, 1989

Leif Erikson Day, 1989

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

Each year, we Americans pause on Leif Erikson Day to commemorate the life and legacy of this courageous Norse missionary and explorer. In remembering the young Viking who travelled to North America nearly a millennium ago, we also celebrate our Nation's Nordic heritage.

Son of "Erik the Red," who led the first group of Europeans to colonize Greenland, Leif Erikson returned to his native Norway in the year 1000. A year after his conversion to Christianity there, Erikson was commissioned by King Olaf Trygvason (Olaf I) to return to Greenland as a missionary. During his lengthy travels, the young navigator visited new, unknown lands. Calling the places he discovered Helluland, Markland, and Vinland, Erikson described their pristine beauty in his journal. Centuries later, other European explorers, inspired by Erikson's account, decided to pursue his exciting discovery and journeyed to these shores.

Although American history is filled with testaments to the faith and courage of many a missionary and explorer, Leif Erikson has remained a beloved symbol of valor. Displaying the same vision and daring embodied by "Leif the Lucky," generations of Scandinavian immigrants have since followed his path to North America. Leif Erikson Day provides an opportunity to pay tribute to those industrious and determined Nordic peoples who have settled in the United States, and to honor them for their many contributions to our Nation. On this special occasion, we also celebrate the close relations between the people of the United States and our friends in all the Nordic countries.