

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

GEORGE BUSH

Proclamation 6043 of October 11, 1989

National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, 1989

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Today, far too many American families, whose lives and homes should be blessed by tranquility and security, dwell instead under the terrifying shadow of domestic violence. Domestic violence is not just a series of simple disputes or family quarrels. It is not just an isolated incident or private matter to be quietly settled, forgiven, and forgotten. Domestic violence is a serious crime that tears at the fabric of the American family.

Each year, hundreds of thousands of Americans—Americans of every age, race, and gender, and from every social, religious, and economic background—are harmed in their homes by a loved one. It is estimated that one-third of all domestic violence incidents involve felonies, including rape, aggravated assault, and robbery. Domestic violence is the single largest cause of injury to women in the United States, and research has shown that persons who engage in one form of family violence are likely to engage in others. Researchers are just beginning to understand the extent of injuries suffered by men as a result of domestic violence, particularly in their advanced years.

The suffering of those children who are abused, or who witness incidents of domestic violence, is inestimable. Domestic violence deprives these little ones of the innocence, joy, and security of childhood—and nothing can replace their loss.

In recent years, the number of shelters and safehouses for battered adults and children has increased dramatically. This month, we recognize the dedicated professionals and volunteers who provide these vital services to the victims of domestic violence. These generous, hard-working men and women merit our respect and gratitude.

However, because many abused individuals continue to need assistance, we must also recognize the importance of supporting private and public efforts to aid victims of domestic violence. Public awareness and understanding of the needs of battered adults and children must be increased. This month, let us renew our determination to learn more about the problem of domestic violence and how each of us can help bring an end to it.

The Congress, by Senate Joint Resolution 133, has designated October 1989 as "National Domestic Violence Awareness 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 Domestic Vi-

olence Awareness Month. I urge all Americans to become more aware of the tragedy of domestic violence; to support and assist victims and those who are working to eliminate domestic violence in our land; and to participate in other appropriate efforts.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this eleventh 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 6044 of October 11, 1989

National Job Skills Week, 1989

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

The observance of National Job Skills Week, 1989, gives all Americans an opportunity to reflect on the changes taking place in our economy and work force. Today, the United States continues to hold a position of leadership in global economic affairs—with most Americans enjoying a high standard of living, employment levels continuing to increase, and unemployment falling to the lowest levels in more than a decade. In large part, this leadership reflects the flexibility, creativity, and commitment to excellence among American workers and employers, as well as the quality of our educational and training institutions.

However, the United States faces a serious challenge that must be dealt with immediately and directly. An increasingly competitive international economy requires that our labor force have improved skills—skills necessary to adapt to technological advances in the workplace.

At the same time, demographic changes are altering the composition of our labor force. Trends indicate that, during the next decade, fewer new young workers will be entering the labor market, and the average age of the work force will rise significantly. Workers without adequate education or training will likely make up a larger share of the entrants into the work force. These trends underscore the importance of providing retraining for older workers and employment opportunities for those Americans who, in the past, have not been able to compete in the labor market due to lack of education or occupational skills.

We must reaffirm our commitment to bringing disadvantaged and unemployed Americans into the labor market so that they, too, can experience the rewards of productive employment and self-sufficiency. Such a commitment is not only a moral imperative, but also vital to maintaining our Nation's prosperity and economic growth.

The centerpiece of the Federal Government's efforts to meet this challenge and commitment is the Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA). Through the JTPA, private and governmental efforts are combined to provide needed training and assistance to individuals seeking private sector employment. The JTPA has been an extremely successful program, but it can be improved. Amendments under consideration would