

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

GEORGE BUSH

Proclamation 6072 of November 16, 1989

Hunger Education Month, 1989

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Famines create headlines. When famine strikes in any region of the world, millions of people rally to help those at risk of starving to death. Chronic hunger, however, often receives far less attention, even though millions of people around the world suffer daily from its effects. Hunger is particularly acute in a number of less developed countries where food supplies have been depleted by poverty, political strife, and civil war.

Over the years, the American people have responded generously to the needs of those affected by famine and chronic hunger. The United States has not only met but exceeded its pledge to the international Food Aid Convention. Through U.S. Food for Peace and other programs, Americans provided more than half of all the grain shipped worldwide through food aid programs during the year that ended in June—more than all other contributing nations combined.

However, we know that contributions of food alone will not provide a lasting solution to chronic hunger. As the ancient proverb so eloquently reminds us, "Give a man a fish, and you have fed him for a day. Teach a man how to fish, and you have fed him for a lifetime."

Poverty and hunger cannot be eliminated simply by donations of food. The development of free market economies also plays a vital role. The United States is working to alleviate hunger in poor nations by encouraging the development of policies that harness the power of individual initiative and free enterprise. We are working to help these countries increase their food production, and we are exploring ways to help them generate sufficient revenues to buy, store, and distribute essential agricultural goods.

If our Nation is to remain responsive to the needs of those who suffer from hunger, and if we are to continue to use our resources effectively in the fight against it, all Americans need to understand its causes and effects. Our schools and community organizations can play vital roles in heightening public awareness of world hunger by conducting educational programs designed to examine this tragic problem and the means we can use to help solve it.

To focus attention on the importance of education in the fight against world hunger, the Congress, by Senate Joint Resolution 198, has designated the month of November 1989 as "An End to Hunger Education 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 the month of November 1989 as Hunger Education Month. I urge all Americans to take time to study the problem of world hunger and discover how they can help alleviate it.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this sixteenth day of November, 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 6073 of November 17, 1989

Thanksgiving Day, 1989

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

On Thanksgiving Day, we Americans pause as a Nation to give thanks for the freedom and prosperity with which we have been blessed by our Creator. Like the pilgrims who first settled in this land, we offer praise to God for His goodness and generosity and rededicate ourselves to lives of service and virtue in His sight.

This annual observance of Thanksgiving was a cherished American tradition even before our first President, George Washington, issued the first Presidential Thanksgiving proclamation in 1789. In his First Inaugural Address, President Washington observed that "No people can be bound to acknowledge and adore the Invisible Hand which conducts the affairs of men more than those of the United States." He noted that the American people—blessed with victory in their fight for Independence and with an abundance of crops in their fields—owed God "some return of pious gratitude." Later, in a confidential note to his close advisor, James Madison, he asked, "should the sense of the Senate be taken on . . . a day of Thanksgiving?" George Washington thus led the way to a Joint Resolution of Congress requesting the President to set aside "a day of public Thanksgiving and Prayer, to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many and signal Favors of Almighty God."

Through the eloquent words of President Washington's initial Thanksgiving proclamation—the first under the Constitution—we are reminded of our dependence upon our Heavenly Father and of the debt of gratitude we owe to Him. "It is the Duty of all Nations," wrote Washington, "to acknowledge the Providence of Almighty God, to obey his Will, to be grateful for his Benefits, and humbly to implore His Protection and Favor."

President Washington asked that on Thanksgiving Day the people of the United States:

unite in rendering unto [God] our sincere and humble Thanks for his kind Care and Protection of the People of this Country previous to their becoming a Nation; for . . . the great degree of Tranquillity, Union and Plenty which we have since enjoyed; for . . . the civil and religious Liberty with which we are blessed, and . . . for all the great and various Favors which he hath been pleased to confer upon us.