foresight. He had “seen the promised land,” and he inspired each of us
to view it with him.

Today, even though many of the darkest “clouds of racial prejudice”
have been dispersed, even though we are closer to that day when
people “will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content
of their character,” we must continue working to promote racial unity
and equal opportunity in the United States. This is our solemn duty—
and it is the greatest honor we can give to the memory of Dr. Martin
Luther King, Jr.

By Public Law 98-144, the third Monday in January of each year has
been designated as a legal public holiday in honor of the “Birthday of
Martin Luther King, Jr.”

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE BUSH, President of the United States
of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution
and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim Monday, January 15,
1990, as the Martin Luther King, Jr., Federal Holiday.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this ninth day
of January, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety, and of
the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and
fourteenth.

GEORGE BUSH

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Proclamation 6089 of January 16, 1990

National Poison Prevention Week, 1990

By the President of the United States of America
A Proclamation

Since its inception 29 years ago, “National Poison Prevention Week”
has encouraged the American people to take measures to prevent child­
hood poisonings. Today we know that this important public awareness
campaign has helped save lives. According to data gathered by the U.S.
Consumer Product Safety Commission, approximately 450 children
under 5 years of age died in 1961 after accidentally ingesting medicines
or household chemicals. During 1987, the most recent year for which
complete statistics are available, 31 deaths from accidental poisoning
occurred among children—a 93 percent decrease.

Efforts to promote public awareness, coupled with educational pro­
grams for parents and the use of child-resistant packaging, have played
a major role in the reduction of poisoning deaths. Offering lifesaving
advice and information over the telephone, the Nation’s Poison Control
Centers have also helped prevent many serious injuries and deaths
among children.

While many tragic deaths have been prevented in recent years, we still
have much work to do. Each year, more than half a million children are
exposed to potentially poisonous medicines or household chemicals, as
documented through calls to Poison Control Centers.

More parents and grandparents must recognize their primary role in
poison prevention. Accidental poisonings can be prevented if parents,
grandparents, and other guardians keep medicines and household
chemicals out of the reach of children. Adults should also be sure to
store all potentially harmful substances in packages with child-resist­
ant closures.

These important messages are carried across the country by the Poison
Prevention Week Council, a coalition of 36 national health, safety, and
governmental organizations and agencies concerned with preventing
childhood poisonings. The annual observance of “National Poison Pre­
vention Week” provides a special opportunity for Poison Control Cen­
ters personnel, educators, pharmacists, and other health professionals
to remind every American adult of the need to protect our little ones
from accidental poisoning.

To encourage the American people to learn more about the dangers of
accidental poisonings and to take more preventative measures against
them, the Congress, by joint resolution approved September 26, 1961 (75
Stat. 681), has authorized and requested the President to issue a procla­
mation designating the third week of March of each year as “National
Poison Prevention Week.”

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE BUSH, President of the United States
of America, do hereby proclaim the week beginning March 18, 1990, as
National Poison Prevention Week. I call upon all Americans to observe
this week by participating in appropriate programs and activities and
by learning how to prevent accidental poisonings among children.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this sixteenth
day of January, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety,
and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hun­
dred and fourteenth.

GEORGE BUSH

Proclamation 6090 of January 19, 1990

National Sanctity of Human Life Day, 1990

By the President of the United States of America
A Proclamation

On National Sanctity of Human Life Day, we affirm the sanctity of
human life in all its stages. We recall that at the very beginning of our
Nation, Thomas Jefferson wrote in the Declaration of Independence
that “Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness” are among the “una­
lienable Rights” with which all people are endowed by God. Similarly,
our Constitution recognizes the sanctity of life by providing that no
person shall be deprived of life without the due process of law.

On this day, we thank God for the millions of Americans who work
every day to affirm the sanctity of life: scientists who devote their lives
to researching cures for disabling and deadly diseases; doctors and