in acts of tenderness and sacrifice, is unfathomable. Always faithful to
her children, always willing to offer them reassurance and forgiveness,
a mother provides a glimpse of the Divine Love that gives every human
life dignity and meaning. This may well be our mothers’ greatest gift to
us.

Shortly after the bombing of Pearl Harbor and the beginning of our Na­
tion’s involvement in World War II, an American minister noted that
Mother’s Day held special significance for a nation embroiled in bitter
conflict. He wrote: “We are so grateful that on this beautiful day it is
possible for the heart and soul of America to unite itself, irrespective of
creed or color, of faith or race, into one great effort to bring this ideal
of love before our hearts and minds again.” At a time when the power
of hatred seemed overwhelming, the unfailing strength of maternal love
gave reason to believe that goodness would prevail.

Today we no longer face the cruel test of world war, but we still do
well to reflect upon the example provided by our mothers. Their cour­
age, faithfulness, and generosity must never fail to strengthen and in­
spire us.

In grateful recognition of the contributions of all mothers to their fami­
lies and to the Nation, the Congress, by a joint resolution approved
May 8, 1914 (38 Stat. 770), has designated the second Sunday in May
each year as “Mother’s Day” and requested the President to call for its
appropriate observance.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE BUSH, President of the United States
of America, do hereby proclaim that Sunday, May 13, 1990, be ob­
served as Mother’s Day. I urge all Americans to express their love and
respect for their mothers and to reflect upon the importance of mother­
hood to the well-being of our country. I direct Federal officials to dis­
play the flag of the United States on all Federal buildings, and I urge
all citizens to display the flag at their homes and other suitable places
on that day.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this tenth day
of May, 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

Proclamation 6134 of May 12, 1990

National Day in Support of Freedom and Human Rights

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

From mid-April to early June of last year, millions of citizens of the
People’s Republic of China participated in massive demonstrations in
scores of Chinese cities in a remarkable display of peaceful political
activity. The goals they espoused—greater freedoms, more respect for
human rights, more meaningful opportunities for participation in politi­
cal processes—are goals cherished by all Americans.
Tragically, on the night of June 3-4, lethal force was used to crush the demonstrations. This action, far beyond the legitimate requirements of law and order, resulted in the deaths of hundreds of unarmed citizens. In the months that followed, many thousands more were detained and otherwise punished for their peaceful expression of political views. Harsh penalties were imposed for activities connected with the demonstrations.

This suppression of dissent in Beijing and other major cities in June echoed the suppression of peaceful demonstrations in Tibet, where a series of demonstrations between October 1987 and March 1989 were put down with increasing severity by Chinese security forces, resulting in the deaths of scores of persons. Participants in subsequent, smaller demonstrations were also imprisoned or otherwise punished for non-violent political dissent, and martial law was imposed on Tibet's capital from March 1989 until May 1, 1990.

Steps have been taken in recent months that have resulted in some improvement. China lifted martial law in Beijing and Lhasa, announced the release of hundreds of prisoners who had been held for political activities, and stated its willingness to receive officially sponsored U.S. scholars and Peace Corps volunteers. The United States hopes that these steps will be followed by others that will demonstrate China's return to the path of reform.

The Congress, by Senate Joint Resolution 275, has authorized and requested the President to issue this proclamation in support of freedom and human rights.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE BUSH, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim May 13, 1990, as a National Day in Support of Freedom and Human Rights. I call upon the people of the United States to observe this day in the spirit of commemorating those who died; drawing inspiration from the courage of those who held fast to their ideals in the face of violent suppression; and urging the Chinese Government to respond positively to the fundamental aspirations for freedom expressed in last year's demonstrations. These are the same fundamental aspirations so profoundly expressed by people around the world during the momentous events we are still witnessing—events that are daily advancing the cause of freedom and human rights.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twelfth day of May, 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