

Proclamation 6144 of June 11, 1990**State-Supported Homes for Veterans Week, 1990**

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

When they served as active members of the United States Armed Forces, our Nation's veterans often endured great risks and hardships to defend the lives and liberty of others. As a measure of the lasting respect and gratitude we owe to each of them, our Nation has developed a system of benefits for its veterans and established a Cabinet-level Department to administer those benefits.

The fifty States have likewise established government agencies to assist veterans. One of the most important functions of these State agencies has been to operate homes dedicated to providing needed care for ill, elderly, or disabled veterans. Shortly after the Civil War, a number of States established homes for disabled soldiers and sailors. The first State veterans home was founded in 1864 by the State of Connecticut. Today there are 60 State-supported homes for veterans in 37 States across the country. According to the Department of Veterans Affairs, State homes for veterans provided 4.8 million days of care for veterans last year alone.

State homes for veterans were originally built or acquired with State funds and operated entirely at State expense. In 1888, however, the Federal Government began to cover part of the cost of the care borne by the States. Later, the Congress authorized Federal matching grants to assist States in constructing nursing homes and domiciliary facilities. These grants also assist the States in expanding or otherwise remodeling existing buildings for the provision of domiciliary care, nursing services, and other medical services to veterans. By providing needed care to our veterans, the States help the Federal Government to carry out an important responsibility. We take pride in this long-standing example of a constructive Federal-State partnership.

Those dedicated to promoting the interests of our Nation's veterans have long appreciated the importance of State veterans homes. With the aging of the veteran population, State homes are becoming an increasingly valuable resource. Indeed, in the years ahead, State homes will play a critical role in helping to meet rising demands for nursing services and domiciliary care among veterans.

To enhance public awareness of the importance of State homes for veterans, the Congress, by Senate Joint Resolution 231, has designated the week of June 10 through June 16, 1990, as "State-Supported Homes for Veterans Week" and has authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this week.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE BUSH, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim the week of June 10 through June 16, 1990, as State-Supported Homes for Veterans Week. I call upon the American people to observe this week with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this eleventh day of June, 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 6145 of June 14, 1990

Flag Day and National Flag Week, 1990

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

Of all the images and symbols that have come to represent the United States, from the towering figure of Uncle Sam to the beautiful yet fearsome bald eagle, the flag occupies a unique place in our hearts and in our history. It is our Nation's greatest emblem, the standard carried into battle by generations of brave and selfless Americans. As a tangible reminder of their great sacrifices, and as a symbol of the freedom with which we have been blessed, it is a banner we raise with a duly profound sense of pride and reverence.

The flag officially took shape on June 14, 1777, when the delegates to the Continental Congress resolved "that the flag of the thirteen United States be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the Union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation." However, the Stars and Stripes had acquired meaning months earlier, when our Founding Fathers boldly affirmed the rights of individuals and declared America's independence from Great Britain. The "new constellation" of which the Continental Congress spoke was our young Nation, a nation where "freedom's holy light" would gleam forth, giving hope to all those living in the darkness of tyranny and serving as a guide to all those charting their own course toward liberty and self-government.

Today, in quiet glory, the Stars and Stripes continue to proclaim the shining promise of America. For millions of people around the world, the flag has bid welcome, marking a place of refuge from religious and political persecution. For millions of others, it has represented the liberty to which all men are heirs. When we look to the Red, White, and Blue, we cannot fail to take pride in the respect accorded to our flag around the world.

Our Nation's flag emerged from the triumphant struggle to represent the idea "that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." One individual who recognized the importance of that struggle to all mankind was the Marquis de Lafayette. This courageous Frenchman understood that, because liberty is the God-given right of all men, the cause of freedom is universal. He eagerly joined in the American Revolution and, on July 31, 1777, was appointed a Major General by the Continental Congress. Time and again throughout the Revolutionary War, Lafayette proved his bravery and his love of freedom. Shortly after the war's conclusion, he described its significance with these joyous words: "America is assured