

Proclamation 6262 of March 20, 1991**Education Day, U.S.A., 1991**

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Today our Nation is engaged in a campaign that must not and, I believe, will not fail—a concerted, State-by-State effort to revitalize our schools and to reach our six National Education Goals by the year 2000. These goals include: ensuring that every child starts school ready to learn; raising the graduation rate to at least 90 percent; ensuring that American students are competent in five critical subjects with their progress assessed in grades 4, 8, and 12; ranking first in the world in science and mathematics achievement; ensuring that every American adult is literate and possesses the knowledge and skills—including the technical skills—necessary to compete in the global economy; and making all our schools safe, disciplined, and drug free.

Achieving these goals is essential if our children are to acquire the knowledge and skills needed to enjoy rich, full lives and to become productive, successful participants in our society. However, if the application of one's knowledge and skills is to be truly fruitful and rewarding, it cannot be divorced from high moral purpose. In the hands of those who lack fundamental moral direction, these powerful tools can readily become useless—or even destructive. Therefore, we must continue to recognize the importance of moral instruction as we seek excellence in American education.

Public as well as private institutions of learning have both an obligation and a proper interest in advancing principles of ethical conduct and moral virtue. Teachers who demonstrate, by word and example, the importance of such qualities as truthfulness, fair play, tolerance, and respect for human life are among the best role models a child can have.

However, moral education begins at home, in the guidance parents provide for their children, and in religious institutions, where we learn of God's law and God's love. The worldwide Lubavitch movement, under the leadership of Rabbi Menachem Schneerson, has underscored the importance of moral education, as well as the primary role of parents and religious institutions in promoting high standards of personal character and conduct in our society.

By equipping our children with the light of moral instruction and the strong staff of traditional family values, we help to guarantee them safe passage on their life's journey. As Scripture says, "Train up a child in the way he should go, and, when he is old, he will not depart from it."

Moral education is vital, not only to the personal well-being of our children, but also to the preservation of civil order and justice. Our Nation's Judeo-Christian heritage, affirmed in its founding documents and in the traditional values that remain the heart of America, goes hand in hand with the success of this great yet precious experiment in self-government. Thus, moral education in keeping with that heritage is one of the most important and enduring investments we can make in the future of our children and the Nation. As Daniel Webster once noted:

If we work upon marble, it will perish; if on brass, time will efface it; if we rear temples, they will crumble into dust; but if we work upon immortal minds, and imbue them with principles, with the just fear of God and love of our fellow men, we engrave on those tablets something that will brighten to all eternity.

The Congress, by House Joint Resolution 104, has designated March 26, 1991, as "Education Day, U.S.A." and has authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this day.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE BUSH, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim March 26, 1991, as Education Day, U.S.A. I call upon all Americans to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twentieth day of March, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and fifteenth.

GEORGE BUSH

Proclamation 6263 of March 21, 1991

National Medal of Honor Day, 1991

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

While all of America's combat veterans have earned our abiding respect and gratitude, we honor in a special way those who have demonstrated exceptional heroism on the field of battle. The Medal of Honor, our country's highest military decoration, has been awarded to 3,440 Americans since the Civil War. During times of armed conflict, these individuals distinguished themselves through brave and selfless actions that were far above and beyond the call of duty.

The Medal of Honor is a poignant reminder of the tremendous price that some Americans have been willing to pay to protect the lives and liberty of others. Indeed, the courageous and loving sacrifices of our Medal of Honor recipients tell us a great deal about the value of freedom and the principles on which this Nation is founded.

A number of those principles were recently at stake in the Persian Gulf region. We Americans are very proud of the U.S. service men and women who have taken part in the successful international effort to liberate Kuwait and to deter unprovoked aggression. They bravely answered the call to duty, knowing full well the costs it might entail, and each of them embodies the determined spirit of our Nation's combat veterans.

In his stirring poem, "A Psalm of Life," Henry Wadsworth Longfellow wrote: "Lives of great men all remind us/we can make our lives sublime/and, departing, leave behind us/footprints on the sands of time." The U.S. troops who recently served along the sands and off the shores