

Proclamation 6267 of April 3, 1991

**National Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day, 1991
and 1992**

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

The recent war in the Persian Gulf resulted in a great and historic victory for the United States and its coalition partners. While we celebrate the liberation of Kuwait and the triumphant return of our courageous troops, we also pause to remember, with solemn pride and appreciation, those service members who bore heavy costs in this conflict. Among them are Americans who were held as prisoners of war.

The worst kinds of treatment brought out the best in those American service men and women who were captured during the fighting in the Persian Gulf region. Each upheld the high standards of courage and conduct that we have come to expect of our military personnel. Their faith in Almighty God, their love of family, and their deep sense of patriotism and self-discipline have been an inspiration to us all.

The recent experiences of U.S. service members captured in the Persian Gulf offer a poignant reminder of the tragic circumstances endured by thousands of American POWs throughout our Nation's history. During World War II, the Korean conflict, the Vietnam War, and other conflicts, many American prisoners of war were subjected to brutal treatment and torture by their captors in violation of fundamental standards of morality and international law. Many did not survive. Yet, despite the suffering inflicted by their captors, American POWs have demonstrated an unflinching devotion to duty, honor, and country. Their bravery will never be forgotten by the American people.

In 1985, the Congress directed the Department of Defense to issue a special medal to all former American prisoners of war. Through the Prisoner of War Medal, as well as our observance of "National Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day," we recognize those American service members and veterans who have been subjected to capture. Recalling the experiences of these Americans, we also renew our commitment to securing the release of any U.S. servicemen and civilians who may still be held against their will, to obtaining the fullest possible accounting of the missing, and to repatriation of all recoverable American remains.

The Congress, by Public Law 102-23, has designated April 9, 1991, and April 9, 1992, as "National Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day" and has authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of these occasions.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE BUSH, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim April 9, 1991, and April 9, 1992, as National Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day. I call upon all Americans to join in remembering former American prisoners of war and their families, who have suffered at the hands of our enemies. I also call upon Federal, State, and local government officials and private organizations to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this third day of April, 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 6268 of April 12, 1991

Cancer Control Month, 1991

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

During Cancer Control Month we pause to celebrate the progress that has been made in the fight against this disease. Since all Americans can better protect themselves from the threat of cancer, this observance includes concerted public awareness campaigns designed to disseminate lifesaving information about the prevention, early detection, and treatment of cancer.

This year we mark the 20th anniversary of the National Cancer Act, which rallied the entire Nation behind efforts to focus increased attention on this disease. Every year since 1971, more and more Americans have survived the crucial first 5 years following a cancer diagnosis without recurrence. Thanks to improved early detection and more effective treatments, most of these patients are considered cured. Today half of all cancer patients can look forward to reaching this milestone.

However, we know that these statistics would reflect even greater improvement if more cancers were found in their early, highly treatable stages. Currently, two-thirds of patients with melanoma and with cancers of the breast, mouth, colon, cervix, and prostate reach the 5-year, disease-free mark. The reason is simple: these cancers can usually be found by regular, periodic physical examinations and by appropriate cancer screening tests. Although people can and should examine themselves for the early signs of many types of cancer, a physician's judgment—often based on the use of sophisticated testing equipment—is also required.

Although improved early detection and treatment is cause for hope, prevention is still the most effective way to control cancer. Research conducted and funded by the National Cancer Institute has been refining our understanding of cancer and giving us new strategies for preventing the disease.

Through simple behavioral and dietary changes, every American can reduce his or her risk of developing cancer. Smoking accounts for about 30 percent of all cancer deaths, and a disproportionate number of these are among members of minority groups. By "breaking the habit," smokers can significantly reduce their risk of developing cancer.

Diet is another area in which individuals can take control of their health. Studies of the relationship between diet and cancer make it clear that a diet high in fiber and low in fat protects against certain kinds of cancer. The American Cancer Society's Great American Food