

Indian Heritage Month. I urge all Americans, as well as their elected representatives at the Federal, State, and local levels, to observe this month with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this thirtieth day of October, 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 sixteenth.

GEORGE BUSH

Proclamation 6369 of November 5, 1991

National Hospice Month, 1991 and 1992

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

Dedicated to serving terminally ill persons and their families, hospice programs have become an important part of our Nation's health care system. This month, we gratefully salute the many outstanding professionals and volunteers who provide hospice care.

By offering a positive and supportive environment, as well as high quality medical care, hospice programs enable terminally ill persons to live peacefully and comfortably in their final days. In so doing, these facilities and services not only reaffirm the inherent dignity and worth of every individual but also demonstrate reverence for human life in all its stages. Relying on the combined knowledge, skills, and compassion of a full team of professionals and volunteers—including physicians, nurses, counselors, therapists, and members of the clergy—hospice programs also help patients' families to cope with their bereavement.

As hospice personnel well know, caring for terminally ill persons can be physically and emotionally exhausting. Fortunately, the establishment of a permanent Medicare hospice benefit and an optional Medicaid hospice benefit has made it possible for more Americans to obtain needed medical and support services. In addition, concerned individuals and agencies in both the public and private sectors have maintained strong working relationships in the interest of hospice care benefits.

In recognition of the importance of hospice programs and in honor of the many dedicated professionals and volunteers who care for terminally ill persons, the Congress, by Public Law 102-121, has designated November 1991 and November 1992 as "National Hospice Month" and has authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of these months.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE BUSH, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim November 1991 and November 1992 as National Hospice Month. I encourage all Americans, as well as government officials and health care providers, to observe these months with appropriate programs and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this fifth day of November, 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 sixteenth.

GEORGE BUSH

Proclamation 6370 of November 8, 1991

National Poison Prevention Week, 1992

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

For more than three decades, we Americans have observed National Poison Prevention Week as part of a concerted, nationwide campaign to reduce the number of accidental poisoning deaths among children. This annual observance, coupled with our year-round efforts in both the public and private sectors, has helped to save lives: during the past 30 years, the number of poisoning deaths among children under 5 years of age has declined markedly, from 450 in 1961 to 42 in 1988.

This "success story" certainly merits celebration. However, because the loss of even one child is more than any family can bear and more than our Nation should tolerate, we must continue to alert the public about the need for poison prevention.

Leading that effort today is the Poison Prevention Week Council, a coalition of 37 national organizations that are determined to protect the health and safety of our most vulnerable citizens. The Council, which embodies our public-private partnership for poison prevention, coordinates the annual observance of National Poison Prevention Week. It also distributes lifesaving information and encourages local poison control centers, pharmacies, health departments, and other agencies to conduct poison prevention programs. The United States Consumer Product Safety Commission, which each year provides a member to serve as Secretary of the Poison Prevention Week Council, helps to direct this important public health campaign to prevent childhood poisonings. It is a truly national effort, enlisting the help of parents, health professionals, educators, and government officials, as well as members of industry and the media.

Poison prevention awareness has saved lives, but there is more to do. The American Association of Poison Control Centers reports that almost 1 million children are exposed each year to potentially poisonous medicines or household chemicals. We must continue to warn parents, grandparents, and other adults about the threat of childhood poisoning and encourage them to adopt safety measures. We can take a simple yet vital step to prevent accidental poisonings by using child-resistant closures and by keeping medicines and household chemicals out of the reach of children.

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