

When officials are chosen without the consent of all, then those who had no voice in their selection are subjects, not citizens. Women are citizens, they are part of the people, and they have a right to help elect those who shall represent them and to help make the laws under which they shall live and to which they must render obedience.

By extending the franchise, the United States took an important step toward fulfilling its promise of liberty and justice for all—one that would be followed by other legal milestones such as the 1964 Civil Rights Act, the Voting Rights Act of 1965, and, more recently, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and the Civil Rights Act of 1991.

Although women have always made vital contributions to the social, cultural, and economic development of the United States, it was not until adoption of the 19th Amendment that they became full participants in our system of self-government. No longer excluded from the voting booth, women began to play increasingly influential roles in public life, overcoming legal and attitudinal barriers to their advancement and sharing their talents and ideas in virtually every field.

As we commemorate the ratification of the 19th Amendment nearly three-quarters of a century ago, we recall the many contributions and achievements of women, as well as our obligation to promote equal opportunities for all Americans. This year, let us also reflect on the importance of having the right to vote and of faithfully exercising that right.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE BUSH, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim August 26, 1992, as Women's Equality Day. I invite all Americans to observe this day with appropriate programs and activities.

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

GEORGE BUSH

Proclamation 6464 of August 12, 1992

**82nd Airborne Division 50th Anniversary Recognition
Day, 1992**

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

Members of the United States Armed Forces have proved, time and again, that they are the most highly prepared and thoroughly effective defense forces in the world. On this occasion, as we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Army's 82nd Airborne Division, we salute an elite group of military personnel who stand among the best of the best.

Emerging from the ranks of the first "All Americans," an infantry unit that participated in three major campaigns during World War I and

saw more consecutive days on the front lines than any other unit, the 82nd was reactivated just a few months after the United States entered World War II. The unit was designated as the Army's first airborne division on August 15, 1942.

The first such infantry unit of its kind, the 82nd Airborne quickly established its reputation as a leader in courage and achievement as well. From its initial parachute and glider assaults into Sicily and Salerno, through its participation at the Battle of the Bulge—where it helped to inflict the blows that led to the final collapse of the Nazi war machine—the 82nd proved to be a fearsome weapon in the Allied struggle against tyranny. "Those devils in the baggy pants," as an exhausted enemy soldier once described them, found no sacrifice too great, no counter-fire too fierce as they stormed from the skies in defense of freedom. By the end of World War II, more than 3,000 members of the 82nd had been killed or were missing in action. Another 12,604 had been wounded. Today we know that their extraordinary selflessness and daring not only hastened the day of victory but also offered enduring evidence of America's resolve to preserve liberty and democracy.

Members of the 82nd Airborne Division have maintained its tradition of excellence well beyond the events of a half-century ago, and on this occasion, we also recall their more recent heroism in the Dominican Republic, Vietnam, Grenada, and Central America. Just a few years ago, more than 2,000 Division paratroopers took part in Operation Just Cause, which liberated the people of Panama from a ruthless dictator. During the successful international effort to free Kuwait from the sinister aggression of Iraq's Saddam Hussein, members of the 82nd proved, once again, why they are the United States' premier rapid deployment force.

Ready at all times to deploy anywhere in the world, and with just 18 hours' notice, the 82nd Airborne Division is a leader among leaders, a special object of pride among the strong and the brave. Thus, while all of America's service members and veterans deserve our respect and thanks, on this 50th anniversary of the 82nd Airborne, we raise a special salute to "America's Guard of Honor."

The Congress, by Senate Joint Resolution 270, has designated August 15, 1992, as "82nd Airborne Division 50th Anniversary Recognition Day" and has 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 encourage all Americans to join in celebrating the 50th anniversary of the activation of the 82nd Airborne Division. Let us honor with appropriate ceremonies and activities the courageous individuals who have served in the 82nd over the years, and let us remember through public and private prayer all those who have died in the line of duty.

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

GEORGE BUSH