

and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim the week of November 20 through November 26, 1992, as National Farm-City Week. I encourage all Americans, in rural and urban communities alike, to join in recognizing the accomplishments of our farmers and all those hard-working individuals who cooperate in producing the abundance of agricultural goods that strengthen and enrich the United States.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-third day of September, 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 6478 of September 26, 1992**

**Child Health Day, 1992**

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

On Child Health Day, we pause as a Nation to assess our children's state of health and to reaffirm our commitment to providing every young American with the best possible start in life, beginning with high quality prenatal care throughout pregnancy for expectant mothers and extending through each child's formative years.

When we examine history, one area of child health that has been marked by remarkable improvement is that of communicable childhood diseases. Over the years scientists and physicians have developed the means to protect children from diseases that, in the past, killed or disabled thousands of boys and girls. Through the practice of childhood immunization, the United States helped to lead the way in eliminating smallpox worldwide by 1980. Heartened by such progress, we aimed to rid the United States of another contagious and potentially devastating disease, measles, by 1990. Unfortunately, however, we remain short of that goal.

Despite the existence of effective childhood vaccines for measles and eight other contagious diseases, more than 50,000 cases of measles were reported in the United States from 1989 to 1991. Out of these cases, 160 persons died.

Such a tragic toll is all the more intolerable because it is preventable. Through a series of vaccinations beginning as early as birth, children can be protected against not only measles but also mumps, rubella, polio, diphtheria, pertussis (whooping cough), tetanus, hepatitis B, and *Haemophilus influenzae* Type B. While as many as 5 in 10 infants and toddlers are receiving all of their recommended childhood immunizations on time, thousands of other children remain at risk of contracting life-threatening or disabling illnesses.

To encourage parents to fulfill their responsibility to have their children immunized and to expand access to vaccinations, the Department of Health and Human Services is moving forward with a concerted immunization initiative. Building on several local pilot programs that were developed in 1991, this initiative will increase the number of vac-

minated preschoolers through education programs aimed at parents, through the integration of services, and through the enlistment of teachers, local health clinics, and other concerned individuals and organizations.

All of us who care about children—especially parents and grandparents but also educators, public officials, and health care providers—must renew our commitment to ensuring that every American preschooler is protected through age-appropriate immunizations. Doing so is vital to the well-being of our children and to the future of our Nation.

The Congress, by joint resolution approved May 18, 1928, as amended (36 U.S.C. 143), has called for the designation of the first Monday in October as "Child Health 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 proclaim Monday, October 5, 1992, as Child Health Day. I urge all Americans to join me in renewing our commitment to protecting the lives of this Nation's youngest citizens.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-sixth day of September, 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 6479 of September 26, 1992**

#### **Leif Erikson Day, 1992**

*By the President of the United States of America*

##### *A Proclamation*

When we Americans commemorate the voyages of Leif Erikson, the daring Norse navigator who explored the North American coast some 1,000 years ago, we celebrate the enduring spirit of discovery—a spirit that is leading us to ever new frontiers in learning and commerce. As we remember "Leif the Lucky," the brave son of Iceland and grandson of Norway, we also celebrate the close, cordial ties that exist between the United States and the Nordic countries. Those ties have been strengthened and enriched over the years by the outstanding contributions of Nordic-Americans, who take special interest in this annual observance of Leif Erikson Day.

Last year descendants of early Norse explorers reenacted the voyages of Leif Erikson by sailing replicas of Viking ships from Norway to Iceland, Greenland, and North America. The success of this tribute to "1,000 Years of Discovery" rekindled feelings of friendship on both sides of the Atlantic and reaffirmed our admiration for all those who continue to chart new realms of knowledge and human endeavor—from pioneers in science and technology to the courageous peoples who, for the first time in decades or perhaps for the first time ever, are beginning to reap the rewards of democracy and free enterprise.