

and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and seventeenth.

GEORGE BUSH

Proclamation 6523 of January 5, 1993

National Law Enforcement Training Week, 1993

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

The effectiveness of any Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency depends on knowledgeable, well-trained, and highly qualified personnel. Building such a force requires rigorous education and training, not only before an officer earns the badge, but also throughout his or her career.

Whether intervening in a violent domestic dispute, apprehending a suspected drug dealer, or assisting at the site of a traffic accident, law enforcement officers are often required to make split-second decisions that could mean the difference between life and death. Therefore, in addition to knowledge of criminal statutes and fundamental rules of procedure, law enforcement training encompasses basic skills on which an officer's survival and other human lives depend. From physical conditioning and self-defense techniques to the safe use of firearms, such training ensures that an officer is prepared to maintain law and order while, at the same time, protecting the rights and safety of individual citizens.

As law enforcement agencies employ increasingly sophisticated technology and techniques in the fight against crime, the need for highly specialized education and training continues to increase as well. Today an officer's training in traditional investigative methods may also include more advanced studies in ballistics, toxicology, computer science, psychology, and other complex fields. For the veteran as well as the rookie, for the administrator behind the desk as well as the officer on the beat—continuing education and training are essential to meeting new challenges in police work.

All Americans benefit from programs that contribute to the knowledge, professionalism, and skill of our Nation's law enforcement officers, and this week we gratefully salute the dedicated individuals whose instruction and guidance assist officers in the performance of their duties. We also recognize the many rewarding career opportunities that are available to young people in law enforcement and related occupations, and encourage parents and teachers to make the observance of this week a rewarding learning opportunity for children—one that instills in them a healthy respect for the law and for the courageous men and women who are pledged to defend it.

In order to heighten public awareness of the importance of law enforcement training and its related fields, the Congress, by Senate Joint Resolution 304, has designated the week of January 3 through January 9, 1993, as "National Law Enforcement Training Week" and has authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this week.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE BUSH, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim the week beginning January 3, 1993, as National Law Enforcement Training Week. I invite all Americans to observe this week with appropriate programs and activities.

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

GEORGE BUSH

Proclamation 6524 of January 11, 1993

Martin Luther King, Jr., Federal Holiday, 1993

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

By setting aside a day in honor of the late Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., our Nation reaffirms its commitment to the noble goals for which he labored and eventually gave his life: equal opportunity and justice for all.

Throughout his quest to end racial segregation in the United States and to promote understanding and respect among all people, Martin Luther King urged America to fulfill its promise—and its potential—as a Nation dedicated to the belief “that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”

Always mindful of those words from our Declaration of Independence, Dr. King viewed his work as a must-win struggle for the soul and future of the Nation. He knew that efforts to promote far-reaching social change, in a peaceful, nonviolent manner, would require patience, determination, and sacrifice. Yet, despite experiencing stubborn opposition, imprisonment, and even threats to his life, he also believed that the civil rights movement would prevail. “We will reach the goal of freedom in Birmingham and all over the Nation,” he wrote to his followers from jail, “because the goal of America is freedom. . . . our destiny is tied up with America’s destiny.”

With his inspired leadership and eloquent appeals to all who would listen, Martin Luther King set in motion a ground swell of change in the United States. The Civil Rights Act of 1957, the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and the Voting Rights Act of 1965 were critical milestones in the fight for equality under the law. Although Dr. King’s assassination in 1968 at the age of 39 prevented his living to see the fulfillment of his dreams for America, his legacy has continued to challenge and inspire us. Over the years the United States has continued to eliminate legal and attitudinal barriers that have, in the past, limited opportunities on the basis of race. We must go on striving to realize Dr. King’s vision of an America where individuals are “not judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.”