

On this date, we remember the sacrifices of those imprisoned while serving America. We remain committed to ensuring that future generations know of their heroism in order to fully appreciate their courage and resolve. Although they returned home safely, their physical and emotional scars remain as a reminder of the high price of liberty.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim April 9, 2001, as National Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day. I call upon all the people of the United States to join me in remembering former American prisoners of war who suffered the hardships of enemy captivity. 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 second day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fifth.

GEORGE W. BUSH

**Proclamation 7422 of April 4, 2001**

**National Organ and Tissue Donor Awareness Week, 2001**

*By the President of the United States of America*

*A Proclamation*

Organ and tissue transplantation is one of the most significant advances in medicine. Wonderful success stories give hope to people of all ages, and donors and their families deserve our deepest gratitude. Their extraordinary generosity and foresight have given countless individuals the opportunity to rear a family, hold a job, and pursue fuller and more active lives.

Unfortunately, many people are not able to reap the benefits of remarkable transplant technology. More than 75,000 Americans are on the national organ transplant waiting list, and every 13 minutes, another person will be added to the waiting list. Sadly, each day, 15 of those on the waiting list will die because the need for organs far exceeds the number donated.

The Department of Health and Human Services and health professionals across the country are dedicated to improving these statistics. By becoming organ donors, Americans can join in this important mission to help those suffering from a life-threatening illness caused by the failure of a vital organ. Persons can participate by simply completing and carrying a donor card and informing family and friends of their wish to donate. Such decisions will make a significant difference in the number of available organs for donation.

Many Americans have set a powerful example in this regard, agreeing to become an organ donor and taking a selfless action that may potentially save lives. I encourage other Americans to consider organ dona-

tion and to join me in expressing gratitude for those who have already made the gift of life.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim April 15 through 21, 2001, as National Organ and Tissue Donor Awareness Week. I call upon medical professionals, government agencies, private organizations, and educators to join me in raising awareness of the need for organ donors in communities throughout our Nation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this fourth day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fifth.

GEORGE W. BUSH

### **Proclamation 7423 of April 9, 2001**

### **Jewish Heritage Week, 2001**

*By the President of the United States of America*

#### *A Proclamation*

Americans have long cherished our identity as a Nation of immigrants. The shared values and aspirations of those who have come to America's shores have helped to shape our culture, laws, and government.

The Jewish community has played a vital role in our Nation's history, tracing back to colonial times. Many were active in supporting the Revolutionary War and in settling new territories and cities during America's westward expansion. Although initially a small community, in time, millions of Jewish men, women, and children followed. In fleeing persecution, pogroms, and the horrors of the Holocaust, they sought a new life in the United States where they could worship in freedom and pursue their hopes and dreams in peace. The many oppressions historically borne by the Jewish people remind us that we must remain committed to religious liberty and tolerance for all.

As we celebrate Jewish Heritage Week, we also recall the lasting contributions that Jewish Americans have made to the arts, education, industry, and science. Many of their names are inscribed in America's textbooks, and the Jewish community's rich heritage and culture continues to enrich our society's national fabric. In many communities large and small, Jewish families have shared their resources, time, and talent to help others. Their contributions to our national life and character help make America a better place.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim April 22 through 29, 2001, as Jewish Heritage Week. I urge all Americans to join in observing this week with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this ninth day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Inde-