

pendence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fifth.

GEORGE W. BUSH

Proclamation 7439 of May 16, 2001

**National Defense Transportation Day and National
Transportation Week, 2001**

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

America's achievements in transportation have helped lay the foundation for our strength and prosperity. As our Nation moves forward into the 21st century, we celebrate how modern transportation has transformed the world and recognize the many men and women who have contributed to its development and advancement.

Whether traveling by road, rail, water, or air, Americans can choose among a large number of options in reaching their destinations. But beyond moving people, our diverse transportation system also makes possible the delivery of countless products throughout the country. Whether intended for individuals, private organizations, government agencies, or merchants, the shipment and transfer of these goods helps to generate and sustain the economic growth that benefits us all.

Our transportation system also contributes vitally to the security of the United States. From the early days of the merchant marine at the time of our Nation's founding, to the latest in 21st century aircraft, our diverse methods of transportation have moved troops and carried defense cargo quickly and efficiently both in peacetime and in war.

To meet America's future needs, our Nation must take advantage of scientific and technological innovation to improve existing transportation systems and develop new ones. We must strive to enhance their reliability and efficiency and close the gap between the demand for transportation and the capacity of the transportation infrastructure.

At the same time, safety will always remain our top priority. Investments in transportation must contribute to the security of the traveling public and improve access for all Americans. Our efforts to modify and strengthen transportation systems must also safeguard the environment and use energy wisely. Through these measures, we can conserve our precious natural resources and reinforce the transportation infrastructure our Nation needs to thrive in a dynamic and competitive world.

To recognize the men and women who work in transportation and thereby contribute to our Nation's well-being, defense, and progress, the United States Congress, by joint resolution approved May 16, 1957 (36 U.S.C. 120) has designated the third Friday in May of each year as "National Defense Transportation Day," and, by joint resolution approved May 14, 1962 (36 U.S.C. 133), declared that the week during which that Friday falls be designated "National Transportation Week."

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim Friday, May 18, 2001, as Na-

tional Defense Transportation Day and May 13 through May 19, 2001, as National Transportation Week. I urge all Americans to recognize how our modern transportation system has enhanced our economy and contributed to our quality of life.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this sixteenth day of May, 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 7440 of May 17, 2001

National Safe Boating Week, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Over 70 million recreational boaters enjoy our Nation's waters, and the national economic impact of recreational boating is more than \$25 billion each year. This year marks the 30th anniversary of the enactment of the Federal Boat Safety Act. This legislation, designed to improve boating safety and to foster greater use and enjoyment of our rivers, lakes, bays, and waters, has accomplished these goals. By encouraging the participation of States, local communities, industry, and the boating public, new generations of Americans have benefited from the development of comprehensive boating safety programs.

Two years after passage of the Federal Boat Safety Act of 1971, 1,754 recreational boating fatalities were reported, on a base of approximately 6 million recreational vessels registered. Since then, the number of registered boats has grown by over 100 percent, yet reported boating fatalities have declined to approximately 750-800 each year.

The coordinated efforts over the past 29 years of the Federal Government, including the Coast Guard and the Coast Guard Auxiliary, States and local communities, and numerous recreational boating organizations, have made the Recreational Boating Safety Program a success. Cumulatively, an estimated 27,000 lives are estimated to have been saved as a result of the recreational boating safety programs established by the Federal Boat Safety Act.

However, despite these programs' successes, too many boaters still die on our Nation's waters. Recreational boating remains second only to highways in transportation-related fatalities. Some boaters lack basic boating safety knowledge and fail to adequately prepare or exercise caution when boating. Though recent accident statistics show improvement in many categories, nearly 70 percent of all recreational boating victims die by drowning. Nearly 90 percent of these drowning victims were not wearing a life jacket. Most of those lives could have been saved if the victims had simply worn their life jackets.

This year's North American Safe Boating Campaign, highlighted during National Safe Boating Week, will emphasize the theme of "Boat Smart from the Start! Wear Your Life Jacket!" Many recreational boating organizations promote safety through educational programs, and I encour-