the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred
and twenty-eighth.

GEORGE W. BUSH

Proclamation 7709 of September 25, 2003

Gold Star Mother’s Day, 2003

By the President of the United States of America
A Proclamation

As members of America’s Armed Forces now protect our country by
engaging the enemies of freedom in Iraq, in Afghanistan, and on other
fronts in the war against terrorism, they carry on a noble legacy. Today,
Americans and millions around the world enjoy freedom because of
the service and sacrifice of our military men and women.

The cost of America’s freedom is often personal. Few pay more dearly
than our Gold Star Mothers, who have endured the death of a son or
daughter in service to our country.

More than 75 years ago, one mother’s determination to transform her
personal loss into good works led to the creation of the American Gold
Star Mothers. After receiving notice of her son’s death in aerial combat
during World War I, Grace Darling Seibold devoted her energy to vol-
unteering in a local hospital. She began reaching out to other mothers
whose sons had died in military service to the Nation. She organized
a group of these special mothers to help them comfort each other and
care for hospitalized veterans. Their organization was named after the
gold star service flag that families hung in their windows in honor of
family members who had died in military service. After years of plan-
ning, it became a national organization in 1928. Since then, brave
women have continued to come together as Gold Star Mothers to ease
the burden of their loss and to serve others.

Today, numerous chapters of Gold Star Mothers across our Nation offer
important programs and services to enhance the lives of veterans and
provide support for their families. Their civic education programs and
help for those in need honor the lives of their sons and daughters and
strengthen America.

1895 as amended), has designated the last Sunday in September as
“Gold Star Mother’s Day,” and has authorized and requested the Presi-
dent to issue a proclamation in observance of this day.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United
States of America, do hereby proclaim Sunday, September 28, 2003, as
Gold Star Mother’s Day. I call upon all Government officials to display
the flag of the United States over Government buildings on this solemn
day. I also encourage the American people to display the flag and hold
appropriate meetings in their homes, places of worship, or other suit-
able places as a public expression of the sympathy and respect that our
Nation holds for our Gold Star Mothers.
Proclamation 7710 of September 26, 2003

Minority Enterprise Development Week, 2003

By the President of the United States of America
A Proclamation

America’s more than 3 million minority-owned businesses represent one of the fastest-growing segments of our Nation’s economy. Through skill, hard work, and determination, these businesses are strengthening our Nation and our economy. During Minority Enterprise Development Week, we recognize these businesses, their owners, and their employees for their commitment to free enterprise and equal opportunity.

Most businesses in America—including those that are minority-owned—are small businesses. Small businesses are a path to the American Dream and must be accessible to all of our citizens. Through the Department of Commerce’s Minority Business Development Agency and the Small Business Administration, we are promoting both the growth of minority-owned businesses and equal access to Federal contracts, capital, and management and technical assistance.

Small businesses also create most of the new jobs in our economy, and my Administration is acting to create an environment where small businesses grow and thrive. On May 28, I signed the Jobs and Growth Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2003, allowing entrepreneurs to keep more of their hard-earned money. My Administration is also pursuing an ambitious trade agenda. This year, I signed legislation implementing Free Trade Agreements with Chile and Singapore. These new Free Trade Agreements, and others that my Administration is seeking, not only will provide cheaper goods for consumers, but also will create new high-wage jobs for American workers.

I encourage all Americans to recognize the strength and importance of our country’s minority entrepreneurs and their employees. The talents, skills, and dedication of these citizens enrich our communities, and we honor their contributions to our Nation.

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 September 28 through October 4, 2003, as Minority Enterprise Development Week. I encourage all Americans to celebrate this week with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities to recognize the many contributions of our Nation’s minority enterprises.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-six day of September, in the year of our Lord two thousand three, and of