

where wildlife remain, as well as to protect those areas where they are slowly re-establishing viable populations.

Our national character, always evolving, finds its foundation in those timeless American ideals of freedom, fairness, and self-sustainability. Today's hunters and anglers bring this spirit to life in the forests and streams they visit. If not for America's great hunters and anglers, like President Theodore Roosevelt and Aldo Leopold, our Nation would not enjoy sound game management; a system of ethical, science-based game laws; and an extensive public lands estate on which to pursue the sports. On National Hunting and Fishing Day, we celebrate their contributions to our natural environment and our national heritage.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim September 26, 2009, as National Hunting and Fishing Day. I call upon the people of the United States to recognize this day with appropriate programs and activities.

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

BARACK OBAMA

Proclamation 8422 of September 25, 2009

Gold Star Mother's and Families' Day, 2009

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

The sacrifices of our military servicemembers are etched in the walls of our monuments and felt at empty dinner tables across America. To those who have given their lives for our country, we honor them as guardians of our liberty and pay tribute to their valiant service. As our Nation remembers our fallen men and women in uniform, we also recognize the profound loss and sorrow of the family members they leave behind.

Few know the honor of service and the costs of war more than Gold Star Mothers and Families. They have given our Nation their most precious treasure, and we remain forever in their debt. Honoring the memory of their lost loved ones, these extraordinary individuals dedicate themselves to helping heal the hearts of other military families who bear the great burden of loss. Through their strength and service, they emulate their loved one's selfless dedication to our country.

On this day, we express immense gratitude and profound respect for Gold Star Mothers and Families. Our country's fallen heroes left the comfort of home so that we might know a more peaceful world. They endured extreme hardship so that we might enjoy freedom. They made the ultimate sacrifice so that we might be safe. They represent the best of America. In their memory, may we fulfill our solemn obligation to

continue their work of securing a safer, freer world for generations to come.

The Congress, by Senate Joint Resolution 115 of June 23, 1936 (49 Stat. 1895 as amended), has designated the last Sunday in September as “Gold Star Mother’s Day.”

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim Sunday, September 27, 2008, as Gold Star Mother’s and Families’ Day. I call upon all Government officials to display the flag of the United States over Government buildings on this special day. I also encourage the American people to display the flag and hold appropriate ceremonies as a public expression of our Nation’s sympathy and respect for our Gold Star Mothers and Families.

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

BARACK OBAMA

Proclamation 8423 of September 25, 2009

National Public Lands Recognition Day, 2009

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Borne out of a commitment to protect and preserve our natural treasures, America’s public lands are an indispensable component of American life. As we work to protect their integrity for future generations, vast expanses of land remain available for the use and enjoyment of all who visit them. National Public Lands Day is an opportunity for all Americans, young and old, to celebrate the majesty of our open spaces and devote our collective efforts to conserving our Nation’s unique landscapes.

Today, from the largest National Parks and Forests to neighborhood playgrounds and urban parks, 130,000 volunteers are working on over 2,000 public land improvement projects across the Nation. Committed individuals, including participants from schools and universities, private businesses, non-profit organizations, and government agencies, are continuing the American tradition of stewardship through their service.

Dedicated to improving all aspects of our natural environment, this year’s Public Lands Day focuses on water. Across the country, volunteers are highlighting the need to protect our Nation’s water bodies by monitoring water quality in rivers and lakes, restoring wetlands, preventing stormwater runoff and erosion, cleaning up trash from shorelines, and learning techniques to conserve water at home.

Public lands help preserve our Nation’s quality of life, offering fresh water, abundant natural resources, and educational and recreational