

Proclamation 3686**DEFENSE OF SOUTH VIET-NAM****By the President of the United States of America****A Proclamation**

WHEREAS, in assisting the people of South Viet-Nam to resist unprovoked aggression, the United States and other nations are carrying on the honored tradition of defending a people's right to freedom; and

WHEREAS the purpose of the United States in Viet-Nam is to help to open the way for social justice in place of unprovoked aggression and peace instead of war; and

WHEREAS there can be no social justice or economic progress without security from external attack and from terror in the night; and

WHEREAS the Government of the United States remains ready without condition for the international discussions that can lead to lasting peace; and

WHEREAS it is the sense of the Congress in S. Res. 159 and H. Res. 626 that it would be fitting for the President to set aside a national day of remembrance dedicated to those Americans who are committing their lives, blood and energies in the defense of world peace.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, LYNDON B. JOHNSON, President of the United States of America, do hereby designate Sunday, November 28, 1965, as a day of dedication and prayer, honoring the men and women of South Viet-Nam, of the United States, and of all other countries, who are risking their lives to bring about a just peace in South Viet-Nam.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the United States of America to be affixed.

DONE at the City of Washington this sixth day of November in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and sixty-five, and [SEAL] of the Independence of the United States of America the one hundred and ninetieth.

LYNDON B. JOHNSON

By the President:

DEAN RUSK,
Secretary of State.

Proclamation 3687**THANKSGIVING DAY, 1965****By the President of the United States of America****A Proclamation**

For all the blessings that have been bestowed upon our nation during the past 12 months, it is a small thing to give thanks to Almighty God.

When the Pilgrims first observed Thanksgiving nearly 350 years ago, life was harsh and unrelenting. Cold and sickness had dimin-

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ished their ranks. Their shelter was crude. Their future was uncertain. Yet when their harvest was abundant, they considered themselves blessed—and their hearts were filled with gratitude.

Today we have much more than an abundant harvest. Our nation is rich and strong and united in the cause of liberty and justice. Our physical comforts are unmatched anywhere in the world. Our medicine has conquered ancient diseases.

In the past year we have added greatly to that national legacy. We have guaranteed the right to vote to all our citizens. We have pledged dignity to our elderly—even in sickness. We have added new dimensions to the education of our youth. We have broadened the horizons of opportunity for our poor. And all the while, we have enjoyed the greatest prosperity in history.

But our real blessings lie not in our bounty. They lie in those steadfast principles that the early Pilgrims forged for all generations to come: the belief in the essential dignity of man; the restless search for a better world for all; and the courage—as shown by our sons in Viet-Nam today—to defend the cause of freedom wherever on earth it is threatened.

These are the eternal blessings of America. They are the blessings which make us grateful even when the future is uncertain. They are the blessings which give us the strength to complete the unfinished tasks that remain before us.

For these blessings should we thank God most of all.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, LYNDON B. JOHNSON, President of the United States of America, in consonance with the joint resolution of the Congress approved December 26, 1941, 55 Stat. 862 (5 U.S.C. 87b), designating the fourth Thursday of November in each year as Thanksgiving Day, do hereby proclaim Thursday, November 25, 1965, as a day of national Thanksgiving.

On that day, let us gather in our homes and in our places of worship to thank God for His generosity. Let us make ourselves worthy of that generosity by pledging to Him our everlasting devotion. And let us pray to Him that the forces of violence, indifference and intolerance may soon vanish from the face of the earth so that peace and understanding and love may reign supreme.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the United States of America to be affixed.

DONE at the City of Washington this tenth day of November in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and sixty-five, and [SEAL] of the Independence of the United States of America the one hundred and ninetieth.

LYNDON B. JOHNSON

By the President:

DEAN RUSK,

Secretary of State.