

together to demonstrate the significant results that can be realized when Americans translate their concerns into affirmative action. I further urge neighborhood and community cleanups, beautification programs, resource recovery and education programs, anti-litter campaigns, energy and wildlife conservation efforts and other worthwhile activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this nineteenth day of September, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred seventy-three, and of the Independence of the United States of America the one hundred ninety-eighth.



PROCLAMATION 4247

## Country Music Month, October 1973

September 29, 1973

*By the President of the United States of America*

### A Proclamation

We do not truly know America until, in Whitman's phrase, we "hear America singing"—singing not only the songs of concert stage and nightclub, choir loft and schoolroom, but also the earthy, emotion-packed melodies and lyrics that have come to be called "country."

At one time, that particularly rich and honest strain in the American musical tradition was largely confined to the geographic areas its name implies: the countryside and Western ranges of America's heartland. But half a century ago, in 1923, Fiddlin' John Carson broke through with the first widely popular country music recording, and since then records and the broadcast airwaves have been winning new audiences for country and Western music all over America and around the world—so that now the term describes not just a locale but a state of mind and style of taste, as much beloved downtown as on the farm.

Today, no matter where men and women happen to live, country music may be one of the truest voices speaking to and for them. All of us can better understand our Nation's head and heart by listening to "hear America singing" in that voice.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RICHARD NIXON, President of the United States of America, ask Americans to mark the month of October, 1973, with suitable observances as Country Music Month.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-ninth day of September, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and seventy-three, and of the Independence of the United States of America the one hundred ninety-eighth.



PROCLAMATION 4248

## National Day of Prayer, 1973

*By the President of the United States of America*

October 5, 1973

### A Proclamation

America is a nation under God. This is not a consequence of legislative mandate, but of the spiritual commitment of a people. Throughout our history, we have turned to God for guidance, for sustenance, and in gratitude for the blessings of freedom.

When our forbears stood on the rocks at Plymouth, they turned to God in prayer.

When our Founding Fathers created a nation nearly two hundred years ago, they asked God's blessing upon their endeavor.

When those who shaped our form of government met in 1787, they sought God's assistance.

When our Nation threatened to tear itself apart a little over a hundred years ago, Abraham Lincoln turned to God for the understanding to keep us together.

We do not assume God's favor, but we seek it. We do not suppose that our way is God's way, but we pray for the wisdom to understand God's way, and the grace to let it be our own. For we know that neither wealth, nor wisdom, nor strength of arms can sustain a nation's greatness, except that God look with favor on the purposes of that nation and its people.

The challenges of our future are no less grave than those faced and met by the men and women to whose faith we are indebted for the constantly recurring miracle of America. As we act to meet the challenges of the American future, let us do so with the same profound faith in