

Proclamation 4295

May 31, 1974

Flag Day and National Flag Week, 1974*By the President of the United States of America***A Proclamation**

The Continental Congress met in Philadelphia on June 14, 1777, and its journal for that date, now in the National Archives, shows that its members primarily concerned themselves with routine matters. But two resolutions approved on that day were to be of great moment.

The first: "Resolved, that Captain John Paul Jones be appointed to command the said ship *Ranger*." It was an appointment that made naval history.

The second: "Resolved, that the flag of the thirteen United States be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white: that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation." This short and unadorned declaration gave birth to our flag.

The outcome of the Revolutionary War remained in doubt on that Saturday in June 197 years ago. But the simple words that created our national standard epitomized the sense of purposeful determination of the people of this land to live together in independence.

We won our independence and an enduring Union was forged. The flag that had been adopted in those uncertain days flew over a new nation. With the addition of stars, it remains our flag today and symbolizes our commitment, as a people, to freedom, equality, and independence.

36 USC 157. To commemorate the adoption of our flag, the Congress, by a joint resolution of August 3, 1949 (63 Stat. 492), designated June 14 of each year as Flag Day and requested the President to issue annually a proclamation calling for its observance. The Congress also requested the
36 USC 157a. President, by joint resolution of June 9, 1966 (80 Stat. 194), to issue annually a proclamation designating the week in which June 14 occurs as National Flag Week and to call upon all citizens of the United States to display the flag of the United States on those days.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RICHARD NIXON, President of the United States of America, do hereby designate the week beginning June 9, 1974, as National Flag Week, and I direct the appropriate officials of the Government to display the flag on all Government buildings

during that week. I urge all Americans to observe Flag Day, June 14, and Flag Week by flying the Stars and Stripes from their homes and other suitable places.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this thirty-first day of May, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and seventy-four, and of the independence of the United States of America the one hundred ninety-eighth.

RICHARD NIXON

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• June 4, 1974

World Environment Day, 1974

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

On May 4, 1974, I had the pleasure of helping to inaugurate EXPO '74, a six-month long exhibition in Spokane, Washington, dedicated to the improvement of the human environment. This exposition is one of many examples of a deepening concern for the quality of life in America.

While much remains to be done, all Americans can be gratified by the substantial success which has already occurred with respect to a number of environmental concerns. Air quality is improving in most of our urban areas as harmful emissions have been reduced. Water quality is similarly improving. In the Great Lakes game fish are returning to areas from which they had long been absent, due in large measure to the cooperative work which we have undertaken with our Canadian neighbors under the terms of an agreement which I signed with Prime Minister Trudeau of Canada on April 15, 1972, in Ottawa. We are working with other nations to deal effectively with a variety of environmental problems, and there will be continued progress.

23 UST 301.

June 5 will mark the second anniversary of World Environment Day. This date was established by the United Nations as a day on which the peoples of the world can undertake activities reaffirming their concern for the preservation and enhancement of the human environment.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RICHARD NIXON, President of the United States of America, do, in support of the action of the United