

Proclamation 4389

September 10, 1975

Veterans Day, 1975*By the President of the United States of America***A Proclamation**

Of all of the important days to be celebrated during America's Bicentennial, none is more worthy of special observance than Veterans Day. Had not the patriotic men and women, to whom we pay deserved and grateful tribute on Veterans Day, heard and answered freedom's call during the past 200 years, there would be no American Bicentennial of freedom.

From Lexington and Concord in 1775 to the present, these courageous, selfless patriots served and sacrificed and died so that their fellow-citizens could live under a government that still is in the full tide of successful experiment and still is the world's best hope.

It is both fitting and proper that a legal holiday, designated by the Congress (5 U.S.C. 6103(a)), be set aside to honor our veterans.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GERALD R. FORD, President of the United States of America, do hereby invite and urge you, my fellow-Americans, to observe Monday, October 27, 1975, as Veterans Day. I commend public ceremonies as well as private contemplation as a meaningful expression of gratitude to our veterans for the priceless heritage of freedom which they have bequeathed to us.

I suggest that disabled veterans in Veterans Administration hospitals throughout the country will welcome and appreciate a Veterans Day visit. And I ask that you help to evidence America's special concern for our returned Vietnam era veterans by making Veterans Day, 1975, the beginning of a renewed personal effort to assist these deserving Americans in achieving the fullest and fastest possible readjustment to civilian life.

Finally, I call upon the appropriate officials of Government to arrange for the display of the flag of the United States on this day. I request officials of Federal, State and local governments to support its observance and I urge schools, churches, unions and civic and patriotic organizations to participate in appropriate public ceremonies throughout the country.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this tenth day of September, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred seventy-five, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundredth.

GERALD R. FORD

Proclamation 4390

September 11, 1975

National Saint Elizabeth Seton Day

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Among the most important elements of America's Bicentennial observance—and of everyday American life for nearly 200 years—is the religious heritage of our Nation, rich in its diversity and its quality.

The singular devotion, faith and courage of such servants of God as Elizabeth Ann Seton give life to that heritage and inspiration to us all.

On Sunday, September 14, 1975, His Holiness Pope Paul VI will confer upon "Mother Seton," as she is known to millions of Roman Catholics, the rites of canonization. From that day, Mother Seton will be Saint Elizabeth Seton, the first American-born saint of the Roman Catholic Church.

Born in New York more than 200 years ago, Mother Seton was content in her early years to live the common life of the 18th century woman. But tragedy entered her life, leaving her a widow at a young age and with five children. Moving to Emmitsburg, Maryland, she turned to the work of her church, took the vows of a nun and later founded the Sisters of Charity of St. Joseph, an order of nuns devoted to teaching.

Mother Seton established the first parochial school in America, the foundation for an educational system that has brought the priceless gift of knowledge to millions of Americans, including a multitude of newly arrived immigrants whom Mother Seton and her followers instructed in the language and the ways of their new homeland.

For her devout faith and diligent service in the Kingdom of God, her church is bestowing its highest honor on Mother Seton on September 14, 1975.