

Most fires can be traced to a lack of active concern for fire safety. Unfortunately, the innocent—the very young and the aged—are most frequently the victims.

This tragic situation need not continue. Methods of coping with fire's destructiveness have been developed. But technological advances alone will not stop the needless waste in human suffering and resources. A greater awareness of fire safety by all of us remains the only real answer.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GERALD R. FORD, President of the United States of America, do hereby designate the week beginning Sunday, October 3, 1976, as Fire Prevention Week.

I urge all citizens to work with their families and communities to learn and practice the basic rules of fire safety.

I call upon all State and local governments, business, labor and other organizations, as well as schools, civic groups, and the media to observe Fire Prevention Week, to provide useful fire-safety information to the public, and to solicit the active participation of all citizens in fire prevention programs.

I also ask the National Fire Protection Association, members of the Joint Council of National Fire Service Organizations, the National Fire Prevention and Control Administration, and other fire safety groups to provide the leadership and planning for a national fire prevention effort.

Finally, I urge every citizen to remember that fire safety must be practiced year-round to be truly effective, not just during Fire Prevention Week.

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

GERALD R. FORD

Proclamation 4454

September 7, 1976

United Nations Day, 1976

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

On October 24 we will observe the 31st anniversary of the United Nations Charter, adopted in 1945 by governments determined to prevent a repetition of world war, to encourage the development of human rights and justice, and to remove the underlying causes of conflict by promoting economic and social progress for all nations.

The United States has played a leading role in encouraging the Organization to fulfill the promise of the Charter. We, and the rest of mankind, have benefited greatly from the vital contributions made by the Organization, particularly the Security Council, to the maintenance of world peace—the most striking reminder being the current peacekeeping role of the United Nations in the Middle East.

The United Nations has also been a forum for other areas of international concern: conferences to work out laws to govern the use of the oceans, to promote arms control, and to focus world attention on such problems as human rights, health, education, and hunger; new programs to promote trade and economic developments; and other activities designed to solve many of the new problems associated with independence in today's world.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GERALD R. FORD, President of the United States of America, do hereby designate Sunday, October 24, 1976, as United Nations Day. I urge the citizens of this Nation to observe that day with community programs that will promote the United Nations and its affiliated agencies.

I have appointed Edgar Speer to be United States National Chairman for United Nations Day and, through him, I call upon State and local officials to encourage citizens' groups and all agencies of communication to engage in appropriate observances of United Nations Day in cooperation with the United Nations Association of the United States of America and other interested organizations.

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

GERALD R. FORD

Proclamation 4455

September 7, 1976

Columbus Day, 1976

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

In this our Bicentennial year, we owe special tribute to the great Italian explorer whose historic voyage to the new world opened the way to the founding of these United States.

Sustained by the vision and financial support of Queen Isabella I of Spain, Christopher Columbus established the first permanent European settlement in the Americas, paving the way for the generations of immigrants from all over the world who came to build a new nation. This great achievement marked the beginning of a new era in the history of mankind.

As the heirs to the spirit and determination of Christopher Columbus, we are proud to honor his memory and unshakable courage and faith which made his epic journey a reality nearly five centuries ago.

In tribute to the achievement of Columbus, the Congress of the United States, by joint resolution approved April 30, 1934 (48 Stat. 657, 36 U.S.C. 146), as modified by the Act of June 28, 1968 (82 Stat. 250, 5 U.S.C. 6103(a) and note), requested the President to proclaim the second Monday in October of each year as Columbus Day.