

Proclamation 4528

September 29, 1977

White Cane Safety Day, 1977*By the President of the United States of America***A Proclamation**

The white cane, an ingeniously simple device in an age of complex technology, helps assure that those with impaired or lost vision can lead rich and useful lives.

Remarkable progress in public attitudes toward blindness has been made in recent years. It is now widely understood that blindness need not be a barrier to full participation in social and economic life, and the white cane is responsible for some of this progress.

Nevertheless, in certain situations—on a busy street, near construction sites, or wherever there are unusual obstacles or hazards—a white cane user may still need help. Yet some people may be reluctant to offer it, for fear of saying or doing the wrong thing. Most blind people understand this hesitancy and are glad to explain their needs if they are asked.

The white cane also signals to motorists and cyclists that the user is blind—but it cannot signal the user that a vehicle is approaching. Thus it is the driver's responsibility to exercise extra caution.

To heighten public awareness of the importance of the white cane to the independence and safety of thousands of blind and visually handicapped Americans, the Congress, by a joint resolution approved October 6, 1964 (78 Stat. 1003; 36 U.S.C. 169d), has authorized the President to proclaim October 15 of each year as White Cane Safety Day.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JIMMY CARTER, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim October 15, 1977, as White Cane Safety Day.

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

JIMMY CARTER

Proclamation 4529

September 30, 1977

American Education Week, 1977*By the President of the United States of America***A Proclamation**

At the base of any democracy must lie a commitment to education for all. Americans, accordingly, have an enormous stake in the vitality of our schools.

Parents, instead of being strangers to the classrooms in which their children spend so much of their lives, must become partners with teachers.

But parents and teachers cannot do the job alone. In our attitudes and our actions, in a hundred different ways, each of us influences young people toward education or away from it. This is the significance of this year's theme for American Education Week: "Working Together for Education".

By sharing our expertise and interests with the schools, we can all enrich educational programs and help determine the course along which our young people will lead America in the years to come.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JIMMY CARTER, President of the United States of America, do hereby designate the week beginning November 13, 1977, as American Education Week.

I ask every American to consider how he or she can work with our Nation's educational community to help America prepare its youngsters to meet the responsibilities they will some day assume.

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

JIMMY CARTER

Proclamation 4530

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September 30, 1977

National Forest Products Week, 1977

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

From the time the first explorers and settlers set foot on this land, the abundant products of America's forests have been regarded as a major resource. Today they still provide a significant portion of our materials for construction, furniture and other important industries and create millions of jobs.

Unlike many of our precious natural resources, our forest products can be replenished. The need to make optimum use of these important resources must be balanced with vital environmental concerns, so that we make the best possible use of our forest lands, preserving the irreplaceable, conserving the beauty and ecological balance while providing important raw materials for our Nation's economic well-being. Small, private non-industrial interests own 59 per cent of our commercial forest land. We encourage them to make wise use of this land. As a Nation we must all work together to prevent and control pollution, fires, insects and diseases that damage our forests, while striving to maintain and improve fish and wildlife habitats.