

Proclamation 4564

April 19, 1978

## Older Americans Month, 1978

*By the President of the United States of America***A Proclamation**

When the month of May was first set aside in 1963 in special tribute to our Nation's senior citizens, there were fewer than eighteen million Americans over the age of sixty-five. Today, their number exceeds twenty-three million.

Older Americans are an invaluable source of talent, skills and experience. Their sacrifice and hard work in the past have brought us through wars and hard times, and kept our Nation faithful to the values and principles on which it was founded. They are our link with what has gone before, remembering the good things we are in constant danger of losing, as well as the bad things we have overcome, and how it was possible. They can help us understand the mistakes of the past so that we do not repeat them. They can help us gather strength and courage from the wisdom of the past to make a better future for our children.

Their skills and knowledge are important to our economy, and it is important to their lives and health that they be able to remain as self-reliant as possible, through employment and other opportunities, and through necessary supportive services that enable them to live their later years in dignity and self-respect. Just as they must not be arbitrarily excluded from contributing to our society, they must not be asked to bear the burdens of society when they are no longer able.

These men and women are a vital part of this Nation. Like all Americans, they need comfortable and safe places to live, nutritious daily diets and adequate incomes and services to give them freedom to make choices. We all must work together to create these conditions in our communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JIMMY CARTER, President of the United States of America, do hereby designate the month of May as Older Americans Month and I ask public officials at all levels, community agencies, educators, the clergy, the communications media and each American to help make it possible for older Americans to enjoy their later years.

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

JIMMY CARTER

Proclamation 4565

April 25, 1978

## Law Day, U.S.A., 1978

*By the President of the United States of America***A Proclamation**

More than any other country, the United States of America is founded upon law. Our people are enormously varied in ethnic and cultural background, in religious belief, and even in language and place of origin. What unites us in our diversity is a common commitment to the Constitution and the laws, and the liberties they represent. These are the basis of our very Nationhood.

This year we once again set aside a special day to honor our commitment to the rule of law. For this year's observance, the American Bar Association has selected the theme of "Your Access to Justice." It is a most appropriate one, for it asks us to reflect not only upon how our legal system can be made more responsive to our needs, but also upon the nature of justice itself.

Access to justice involves issues that lie beyond the scope of any single group. The law is not the private property of lawyers, nor is justice the exclusive province of judges and juries. In the final analysis, true justice is not a matter of courts and law books, but of a commitment in each of us to liberty and to mutual respect. Accordingly, the efforts of the legal profession to elicit the help and advice of all Americans are to be commended.

To encourage the people of the United States to consider their individual responsibilities with respect to our legal system, the Congress, by joint resolution approved April 7, 1961 (75 Stat. 43, 36 U.S.C. 164) has requested the President to issue a proclamation calling upon the American people to observe the first day of May of each year as Law Day, U.S.A.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JIMMY CARTER, President of the United States of America, ask all Americans to celebrate Monday, May 1, 1978, as Law Day, U.S.A., and to honor the principle of equal justice under law. I ask all public officials to display the flag of the United States on all public buildings on that day.

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

JIMMY CARTER

Proclamation 4566

April 25, 1978

**National Architectural Barrier Awareness Week, 1978**

*By the President of the United States of America*

**A Proclamation**

Physical access is often the key to whether people can enjoy their rights and freedoms, and exercise their responsibilities. Every day, however, millions of elderly and handicapped Americans are denied access to places of employment, houses of worship, shops, schools, public services, recreational areas and many other facilities that other Americans take for granted.

If all Americans are to have true access, we must remove the architectural barriers in our society that block some of our people from full participation and self-reliance. We must also remove the barriers of attitude and custom that have prevented many people from doing what they can.

The Congress expressed its commitment to the removal of physical barriers from Federal buildings by enacting the Architectural and Transportation Barriers Act in 1968. The Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board, created to enforce that act, will soon launch a national media campaign about barriers using the slogan, "Access America."

This Administration has taken steps to improve the access of handicapped citizens by issuing regulations under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act which require recipients of federal financial assistance to improve the accessibility of their programs to the disabled. We have also proposed a loan fund to assist institutions to pay for physical alterations when needed.

42 USC 4151  
note.

29 USC 794.