

Proclamation 4670 of July 23, 1979

Citizenship Day and Constitution Week, 1979

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

On September 17, 1787, in Independence Hall, Philadelphia, our Founding Fathers adopted the Constitution of the United States. With this great document as its cornerstone, our country has become the finest example in all history of the principle of government by law, in which every individual is guaranteed certain inalienable rights. The strong beliefs of its authors in the worth of the individual and the rights to be enjoyed by all citizens have made the Constitution not only an enduring document but one which finds new life with the passing of years and continues to inspire freedom-seeking people all over the world.

On February 29, 1952, by joint resolution (36 U.S.C. 153), the Congress designated September 17 as Citizenship Day, in commemoration of the formation and signing of the Constitution as a reminder of the privileges and responsibilities of citizenship. By a joint resolution of August 2, 1956 (36 U.S.C. 159), Congress authorized the President to designate the period beginning September 17 and ending September 23 of each year as Constitution Week and to issue a proclamation calling for the observance of that week.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JIMMY CARTER, President of the United States of America, call upon appropriate Government officials to display the flag of the United States on all Government buildings on Citizenship Day, September 17, 1979. I urge Federal, State and local officials, as well as leaders of civic, educational and religious organizations to conduct meaningful ceremonies and programs on that day.

I also designate as Constitution Week the period beginning September 17 and ending September 23, 1979, and urge all Americans to observe that week with appropriate ceremonies and activities in their schools, churches and in other suitable places in order to foster a better understanding of the Constitution, and of the rights and duties of United States citizens.

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

JIMMY CARTER

Proclamation 4671 of August 15, 1979

Firefighters' Memorial Sunday, 1979

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Courageous firefighters have protected the lives of their neighbors from the ravages of fire since the beginning of civilization.

Volunteer and professional firefighters are members of America's most hazardous profession. More than half of the injuries in fires each year are sustained by firefighters, over 55,000 each year.

Numerous churches and many denominations have indicated a desire to participate in a designated Memorial Sunday honoring these consecrated firefighters for their ultimate sacrifices for their fellowmen.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JIMMY CARTER, President of the United States of America, do hereby designate Sunday, October 7, 1979, as Firefighters' Memorial Sunday.

Because of my grave concern for the firefighters of this country, I have urged the Federal government to undertake numerous programs aimed at reducing the dangers faced by this country's firefighters. We must do more to reverse the trend toward more injuries and deaths of firefighters.

This year the 50-year dream of a National Fire Academy became a reality. At that site, firefighters from across the Nation can receive advanced training and education in health and safety. I invite the firefighters of the country to take full advantage of this long-awaited facility.

I also call upon the members of the Joint Council of National Fire Service Organizations, members of the International Association of Fire Fighters, members of the International Association of Fire Chiefs, the National Fire Protection Association, all other organizations concerned with fire safety, and the United States Fire Administration to provide leadership and innovation to protect the lives of America's volunteer and professional firefighters.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this fifteenth day of August, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred seventy-nine, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and fourth.

JIMMY CARTER

Proclamation 4672 of August 15, 1979

Fire Prevention Week, 1979

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Fire causes more loss of life and property in the United States than all other natural disasters combined. Fire is the second most frequent cause of accidental death in the home. Volunteer and professional firefighters bear a disproportionate burden of the human costs of fire; firefighting is still America's most hazardous profession.

Last year 8,700 Americans died, 280,000 were injured in fires and \$5 billion in property was lost. America's loss to fire is among the very highest in the industrialized world.

As evidence of my strong personal concern about our fire problem, I have implemented a Reorganization Plan that puts the Federal government's principal fire programs in the new Federal Emergency Management Agency. This agency now coordinates America's disaster preparedness and response efforts. But the Federal government alone cannot reduce America's