and the private practice sector and with all types of health professionals, applying the expertise gained through their many years of education and training.

In recognition of the important services that these counselors perform for others to save lives and reduce suffering, the Congress, by Senate Joint Resolution 203, has designated the week beginning April 8, 1984, as National Mental Health Counselors Week and has authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this event.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RONALD REAGAN, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim the week beginning April 8, 1984, as National Mental Health Counselors Week. I call upon health care professionals, educators, the media, individuals, and public and private organizations concerned with mental health to observe this week with appropriate ceremonies.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 8th day of April, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and eighty-four, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and eighth.

RONALD REAGAN
to join in efforts to focus attention on the need for the rule of law. I also
call upon all public officials to display the flag of the United States on all

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this ninth day of
April, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and eighty-four, and of the
Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and eighth.

RONALD REAGAN

Editorial note: For the President's remarks of Apr. 9, 1984, on signing Proclamation 5175, see the
Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents (vol. 20, p. 507).

Proclamation 5176 of April 9, 1984

Parkinson’s Disease Awareness Week, 1984

By the President of the United States of America
A Proclamation

For most of us, movement is part of our lives which, though essential, we
often take for granted. But for nearly half a million Americans, every step,
evry gesture is fraught with apprehension. These people suffer from Par­
kinson’s disease, a movement disorder that affects people as they grow
older.

We now know that the tremor and rigidity characteristic of Parkinson’s dis­
ease are caused by a chemical deficiency in the part of the brain that con­
trols movement. Through research, scientists have discovered that certain
drugs can help overcome this deficiency. Many Americans with Parkinson’s
disease have found that with medication, physical therapy, and emotional
support from families and friends, they can lead normal and productive
lives.

Superbly trained scientists are hard at work trying to solve the problems
caused by Parkinson’s disease. Many of these scientists are supported by
the Federal government’s National Institute of Neurological and Communi­
cative Disorders and Stroke and by four national voluntary health organiza­
tions: the American Parkinson Disease Association, the National Parkinson
Foundation, Inc., the Parkinson’s Disease Foundation, and the United Par­
kinson Foundation.

While these medical advances are encouraging, it is important that there be
greater public awareness of what it means to have Parkinson’s disease. We
must let people with Parkinson’s disease know that we understand when
they have trouble walking through a doorway or when the disorder causes
their hands or their heads to shake uncontrollably. A smile may be all the
encouragement they need to relax enough to resume normal movement. I
commend the courage of Americans who refuse to be vanquished by Par­
kinson’s disease. And I applaud the resourcefulness of the families and
friends who provide them with sustained affection and encouragement.

The Congress, by Senate Joint Resolution 263, has designated the week of
April 8–14, 1984, as “Parkinson’s Disease Awareness Week” and has au­
thorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance
of that week.