

to help our Nation perform that task successfully than the Big Brothers and Big Sisters of America. These are men and women who take time from their own responsibilities and families to offer a helping hand to young people in need. Big Brothers and Big Sisters offer youngsters support, counseling, and—most important of all—friendship.

The spirit of voluntarism exemplified by this organization is the foundation of our way of life. Americans have always been a compassionate and decent people, and they have never waited for directions from government before devoting their time and energy to helping their neighbors. The Big Brothers and Big Sisters of America are adding new luster to this old tradition.

The Congress, by House Joint Resolution 594, has designated the week of February 17 through February 23, 1985, as a time to recognize the contributions of volunteers who give their time to become Big Brothers and Big Sisters to youths in need of adult companionship and authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this week. 98 Stat. 3175.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RONALD REAGAN, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim the period from February 17 through February 23, 1985, as "National Big Brothers and Big Sisters Week." I call upon the people of the United States and local and national governmental officials to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies.

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

RONALD REAGAN

**Proclamation 5301 of February 12, 1985**

**National DECA Week, 1985**

*By the President of the United States of America*

*A Proclamation*

The value of the free enterprise system in America is confirmed when the products of our research, our industry, and our agriculture improve the quality of people's lives not only in America, but throughout the world. And the genius of American business has been to make the wealth of its factories and farms accessible to all.

For thirty-eight years, the Distributive Education Clubs of America have introduced high school and college students to the challenges, skills, and responsibilities of delivering the products of our free enterprise system to those who use them. Now numbering some 150,000 members in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico, the Distributive Education Clubs of America are helping to prepare a cadre of professionals with the spirit of enterprise, the civic responsibility, and the complex skills needed to assure that America's strength in marketing keeps pace with the vast expansion of technology and the increasingly sophisticated needs of people in all parts of the world.

To give special recognition to the valuable contribution the Distributive Education Clubs of America are making to maintaining our Nation's eco-

*Ante*, p. 4.

conomic strength and to introducing young Americans to the opportunities and rewards of free enterprise, the Congress, by Senate Joint Resolution 36, has designated the week of February 10, 1985, through February 16, 1985, as "National DECA Week" and authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of that week.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RONALD REAGAN, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim the week beginning February 10 through February 16, 1985, as National DECA Week, and I call upon all government agencies, interested organizations, community groups, and the people of the United States to observe this week with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

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

RONALD REAGAN

**Proclamation 5302 of February 16, 1985**

**Lithuanian Independence Day, 1985**

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

Sixty-seven years ago, a small nation achieved freedom in the aftermath of World War I. Proclaiming the Lithuanian Republic, its founders stepped forward on February 16, 1918, to assert their country's independence and commitment to a government based on justice, democracy, and the rights of individuals. Twenty-two years later, Soviet tyranny imposed itself on Lithuania and denied the Lithuanian people their just right of national self-determination as well as basic human freedoms.

Among the freedoms most consistently attacked by Soviet authorities is the freedom of religion. The victims of these attacks have often been Catholic Church figures, such as Father Alfonsas Svarinskas, Father Sigitas Tamkevicius, and, most recently, Father Jonas-Kastytis Matulionis. Their crimes: administering to the spiritual needs of the faithful.

Yet the people of Lithuania refuse to submit quietly. Hundreds of thousands of people have signed petitions demanding the release of priests and other human and civil rights leaders. Underground publications such as the sixty-fourth issue of the "Chronicle of the Catholic Church in Lithuania" and forty-first issue of "The Dawn," which have recently come to the West, continue to inform the world of ongoing persecutions.

Americans are united in an enduring belief in the right of peoples to live in freedom. The United States has refused to recognize the forcible incorporation of Lithuania into the Soviet Union. We must be vigilant in the protection of this ideal because we know that as long as freedom is denied to others, it is not truly secure here.

We mark this anniversary of Lithuanian Independence with a renewed hope that the blessings of liberty will be restored to Lithuania.