AUTHENTICATED
U.S. GOVERNMENT
INFORMATION
GPO

brave kids by the thousands who kept fighting and kept climbing and carried out General Eisenhower's order of the day—nothing short of complete victory.

For us, nearly six decades later, the order of the day is gratitude. Today we give thanks for all that was gained on the beaches of Normandy. We remember what was lost with respect, admiration, and love.

The great enemies of that era have vanished. And it is one of history's remarkable turns that so many young men from the new world would cross the sea to help liberate the old. Beyond the peaceful beaches and quiet cemeteries lies a Europe whole and free, a continent of democratic governments and people more free and hopeful than ever before. This freedom and these hopes are what the heroes of D-day fought and died for. And these, in the end, are the greatest monuments of all to the sacrifices made that day.

When I go to Europe next week, I will reaffirm the ties that bind our nations in a common destiny. These are the ties of friendship and hard experiences. They have seen our nations through a World War and a cold war. Our shared values and experiences must guide us now in our continued partnership and in leading the peaceful democratic revolution that continues to this day.

We have learned that when there is conflict in Europe, America is affected and cannot stand by. We have learned, as well, in the years since the war that America gains when Europe is united and peaceful.

Fifty-seven years ago today, America and the nations of Europe formed a bond that has never been broken. And all of us incurred a debt that can never be repaid. Today, as America dedicates our D-Day Memorial, we pray that our country will always be worthy of the courage that delivered us from evil and saved the free world.

God bless America. And God bless the World War II generation.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:10 p.m. at the memorial. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. James S. Gilmore III, Lt. Gov. John Hager, and former Attorney General Mark L. Earley of Virginia; Francois Bujon de l'Estang, French Ambassador to the United States; Lacey E. Putney, delegate, Virginia House of Delegates; Col. David C. Sessions, USAF, chaplain, 20th Fighter Wing; John Robert Slaughter, chairman, board of directors, and Richard B. Burrow, president, National D-Day Memorial Foundation; and journalist Andy Rooney.

Executive Order 13216—Amendment to Executive Order 13125, Increasing Participation of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in Federal Programs

June 6, 2001

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America and in order to change the title of Executive Order 13125 of June 7, 1999, and to extend by 2 years the President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders that was created by Executive Order 13125, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. The title of Executive Order 13125 is deleted and the following title is inserted in lieu thereof: "Increasing Opportunity and Improving Quality of Life of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders."

Sec. 2. Section 9 of Executive Order 13125 is amended by deleting "2 years after the date of this Executive order unless the Commission is renewed by the President prior to the end of that 2-year period" and inserting in lieu thereof "on June 7, 2003, unless renewed by the President prior to that date."

George W. Bush

The White House,
June 6, 2001.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 10:54 a.m., June 8, 2001]

NOTE: This Executive order was published in the *Federal Register* on June 11.

Proclamation 7447—Flag Day and National Flag Week, 2001

June 6, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

On June 14, 2001, Americans will observe the 224th birthday of the flag of the United States of America. This special day provides a time for our Nation to reflect on our flag's rich history and its meaning to Americans and people around the world.

The Continental Congress adopted the Stars and Stripes as the official flag of our young republic on June 14, 1777. Describing the new flag, the Congress wrote, "White signifies Purity and Innocence; Red, Hardiness and Valor; Blue signifies Vigilance, Perseverance and Justice." Over time, the flag's design evolved to keep pace with our Nation's development and growth, but its meaning as a symbol of democracy and freedom has remained constant.

Flag Day was first celebrated throughout the country in 1877 to mark the centennial of the birth of our national symbol. As so often happens in our communities, a caring teacher encouraging students to develop a love for learning sparked renewed interest in the flag. Wisconsin schoolteacher B.J. Cigrand arranged for his pupils in 1885 to observe the 108th anniversary of the flag's official adoption.

In magazine and newspaper articles and public addresses in the following years, Cigrand promoted an official national celebration of June 14 as "Flag Birthday" or "Flag Day." Groups in Pennsylvania, New York, and Illinois took up the cause. After three decades of State and local celebrations, President Woodrow Wilson officially established Flag Day by proclamation in 1916.

During the darkest hours of World War II, Americans looked to the purity, hardiness, valor, vigilance, perseverance, and justice represented by the flag as ideals worthy of the ultimate sacrifice in order to defeat tyranny. In celebration of the flag's powerful meaning to Americans and its place in our culture and history, Flag Day became a national observance by Act of Congress in 1949 and was signed into law by President Harry Truman.

To commemorate the adoption of our flag, the Congress, by joint resolution approved August 3, 1949 (63 Stat. 492), designated June 14 of each year as "Flag Day" and requested the President to issue an annual proclamation calling for a national observance and for the display of the flag of the United States on all Federal Government buildings. In a second joint resolution approved June 9, 1966 (80 Stat. 194), the Congress requested the President to also issue annually a proclamation designating the week during which June 14 falls as "National Flag Week" and called upon all citizens of the United States to display the flag during that week.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim June 14, 2001, as Flag Day and the week beginning June 10, 2001, as National Flag Week. I direct the appropriate officials to display the flag of the United States on all Federal Government buildings during the week. I also call upon the people of the United States to observe with pride and all due ceremony those days from Flag Day through Independence Day, also set aside by the Congress (89 Stat. 211), as a time to honor America, to celebrate our heritage in public gatherings and activities, and to recite publicly the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this sixth day of June, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fifth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., June 8, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on June 7, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on June 11.