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Proclamation 7570—National Homeownership Month, 2002

June 4, 2002

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Homeownership is an important part of the American Dream. As President, I am committed to helping many more Americans achieve that dream. A home provides shelter and a safe place where families can prosper and children can thrive. For many Americans, their home is an important financial investment, and it can be a source of great personal pride and an important part of community stability.

Homeownership encourages personal responsibility and the values necessary for strong families. Where homeownership flourishes, neighborhoods are more stable, residents are more civic-minded, schools are better, and crime rates decline. Thanks to the resources available in our Nation, more Americans own homes today than at any time in our history. However, among African American and Hispanic families, fewer than half are homeowners. My Administration is working to provide all families with the tools and information they need to accumulate wealth and overcome barriers to homeownership.

The Department of Housing and Urban Development is partnering with State and local governments, community groups, and the private sector to make the most effective use of Federal funds. Through a combination of down payment assistance, tax incentives, and education about the process and responsibilities of homeownership, we are helping thousands of Americans buy homes and pursue a better quality of life.

During National Homeownership Month, I encourage all Americans to learn more about financial management and to explore homeownership opportunities in their communities. By taking this important step, individuals and families help safeguard their financial futures and contribute to the strength of our Nation.

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 2002 as National Homeownership Month. I call upon the people of the United States to join me in recognizing the importance of providing all our citizens a chance to achieve the American Dream.

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

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., June 6, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on June 7.

Proclamation 7571—National Child's Day, 2002

June 5, 2002

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Children bring joy and challenge to the lives they touch. And as our next generation of leaders, they carry with them the hope of our Nation. From the excitement of watching a toddler take a first step to the satisfaction of seeing them mature into adulthood, we are blessed to share our lives and experiences with children. Their thoughts, ideas, and unique perspectives renew our appreciation for life.

National Child's Day is a time to affirm our commitment as parents, teachers, and citizens to the health, well-being, and success of our children. Our goal must be to make sure that all children have the opportunity to learn and succeed. To achieve this, we must use the resources of our families, communities, schools, and government to ensure that no child is left behind.

My Administration is strongly committed to helping boys and girls grow up in secure families that help them reach their full potential. Families forge values where children can find fulfillment and love. And children

who are surrounded by love, support, and encouragement can develop self-esteem and have a strong foundation for life.

We are working to implement programs and initiatives that help families stay strong and intact; that support adoption efforts and mentoring programs; that protect children from abuse and neglect; and that encourage alcohol, drug, and sexual abstinence. We also are making great progress in helping all schools become places where every student is able and expected to learn.

While government can provide much to support children, it cannot provide the love a child needs. I encourage all community leaders, educators, faith-based organizations, and citizens to seek opportunities to mentor, encourage, and listen to our children. As we observe National Child's Day, we should also communicate to young people that their dreams, aspirations, happiness, and well-being are important to us and to our future.

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 9, 2002, as National Child's Day. I urge all Americans to work within their communities to appreciate, love, and protect all of America's children. I also call upon citizens to observe this day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

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

George W. Bush

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Remarks at the Congressional Barbecue

June 5, 2002

Welcome. Laura and I are really happy to give you all a taste of Texas. We want to thank our friends Asleep At The Wheel out of Austin, Texas, for your fantastic music. Thank you all very much. And I want to thank our friends from Buffalo Gap, Texas, the people who brought the food. That would be Tom Perini and—[*inaudible*]—we want to thank them and all the people who served the food. We want to thank you all for coming tonight.

First I want to say something to the spouses and the family members who are here. Thank you for your service to the country. We appreciate your patience and we appreciate you supporting your loved ones in their important jobs of representing the greatest Nation on the face of the Earth, the United States of America.

The last time we were supposed to have this party was on September the 11th. And we have come together here in Washington and around the Nation for a great and noble cause, and that is to defend freedom. The defense of our freedoms here in America is not a Republican calling or a Democratic calling; it is an American calling. And I want to thank all the Members of Congress.

I want to thank you for your support here in Washington, and I want to thank you for going home to your districts and your States and explaining to our citizens, our fellow citizens, what's ahead. This country is patient, and this country is united, and this country is plenty tough when it comes to defending that which we hold dear. And a lot of it has to do with what you do when you go home, and I want to thank you for that a lot. It means a lot.

It is much easier to be the Commander in Chief when the people are pulling in the same direction. And they're pulling in the same direction, much to the chagrin of the enemy.

So it's our great pleasure to welcome you here. I know sometimes we have squabbles with the legislative branch. If only you did it the way the Vice President and I wanted you to do it, everything would be fine. [*Laughter*] But I admire—I admire those who serve in the Senate and the House. I admire your steadfast love of democracy, and I appreciate so very much your love of our country.