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Proclamation 7589—National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month, 2002

September 4, 2002

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Drug and alcohol abuse destroys the hopes of men, women, and young people and takes a terrible toll on society. Addiction destroys the lives of countless Americans, shatters families, and threatens the safety of our neighborhoods.

National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month provides an important opportunity to promote the values that have given people the strength to beat drug and alcohol abuse and remain drug-free. The theme of this year's commemoration, *Join the Voices of Recovery: A Call to Action*, emphasizes the critical role of communities in encouraging individuals with substance abuse problems to seek help. While those who suffer from addiction must help themselves, it is also crucial for family, friends, and people with shared experiences to support those fighting to overcome substance abuse. Those in recovery play a key role in helping others achieve healthy lives. They can convey important information about the toll of alcohol and drug addiction and the benefits of recovery, inspire others to succeed, and allow young people to learn valuable lessons about their experiences.

As a Nation, we must aggressively promote compassionate treatment for those suffering from addiction. When individuals begin the process of recovery, they take an important first step toward regaining dignity and hope. Across our Nation, we know that many Americans who are dependent on drugs are not receiving the treatment they need. My National Drug Control Strategy expands drug treatment to Americans who need it. For 2003, my Administration proposes $3.8 billion for drug treatment, an increase of more than 6 percent over 2002. This includes a $100 million increase in treatment spending for 2003 as part of a plan to add $1.6 billion over 5 years. Staying clean and sober is a lifelong responsibility, and those who succeed improve their health, can better enjoy their family and friends, and are more likely to find success in the workplace. The vast majority of people in recovery are capable individuals who contribute to America's strength. We celebrate the success of those in recovery, but we must help those still suffering from dependence and battling addiction.

My Administration is implementing an effective national strategy that is community-based. We have established the goal of a 10 percent reduction of drug use over the next 2 years, and a 25 percent reduction over the next 5 years. We must stop drug use before it starts, heal America's drug users, and disrupt the supply of and demand for drugs in our country. And we must continue the fight against alcohol abuse and the toll it takes on our society. Together, we can achieve these goals, help save lives, and restore hope to individuals and families.

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 September 2002 as National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month. I call upon all the people of the United States to observe this month with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

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

George W. Bush

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Remarks to the Community in Louisville, Kentucky

September 5, 2002

Thank you all very much. Thank you all. It is great to be here in the State of Kentucky. Let me tell you, it's great to be back to the State of Kentucky. I want to thank you all for coming. It is my—it's going to be my honor today to talk to you about our country, our future. I want to talk about how to make our country a safer country and a stronger country and, as importantly, a better country. And there's no better place to do it than Louisville, Kentucky.

I want to thank Anne for her kind introduction, and I want to thank the other members of the Kentucky delegation who are here today who are my friends, and that would be Senator Jim Bunning and Congressman Ken Lucas. I appreciate all three members of the congressional delegation coming down today. As you know, they're up there in Washington meeting, and it's an honor that three Members decided to come and hear the President. [*Laughter*]

I want to thank your Governor, Paul Patton, for coming today. Governor, I appreciate you taking time to be here. I'm honored that you're here. I want to thank Elaine Chao, who is a member of my Cabinet, the Secretary of Labor. I appreciate you coming, Elaine. I want to thank the head of the Small Business Administration, Hector Barreto, for joining us as well. Thank you, Hector. Oh, I forgot—I forgot to mention the first lady of Kentucky. One thing you learn is never to forget to mention the first ladies. I appreciate Judi Patton being here as well. Thank you for coming, Judi.

Speaking about first ladies, my wife is doing great, too. I like to remind people that when I married her, she was a public school librarian. And for all the public school librarians out there, you've got an advocate in the White House. For all the teachers out there, I want to thank you for being teachers, too. She didn't like politics, and she didn't like politicians when I married her. Now she's stuck with one. [*Laughter*] She's doing a great job. I'm really proud of her. She sends her love and her best to all the people of Kentucky.

I want to thank the members of the Louisville community who happen to be small-business owners for coming to visit. We just had a good hour discussion about small-business issues. You see, one of the best ways to make sure that our economy grows is to have an environment in which the entrepreneur can flourish and the small business can be strong. Most new jobs are created in America by small businesses, and therefore, we'd better worry about the health of small businesses, if we're worried about the health and security of the country.

And I'm worried about the health and security of our country; I am. And we've got a lot of work to do. I'm not worried about our future because I'm optimistic about America. We've got a great future ahead of us. But so long as anybody who wants to work can't find work, I think we've got a problem in America. And so, therefore, our thought process ought to be how to create jobs, how best to make sure that the foundation of economic growth remains strong and that we go forward with creating jobs.

And that's why I met with the small-business owners and listened to their concerns and heard their points of view. First, let me tell you the foundation for our economy is strong. I mean, after all, interest rates are low. Inflation is low. We've got the best workers in the world. Our productivity is high. We've got the best farmers and ranchers in the world. We're really good at a lot of things in America which creates the foundation for growth. I am not satisfied, however, until everybody can find work. And so, fundamentally, what can we do?

First, you've got to understand the role of Government is not to create wealth. It's to create an environment in which people can realize their dreams, in which small businesses can grow to be big businesses. And one way to encourage that is to let people keep more of their own money.

When we came in, it turns out the country was in a recession. That's three quarters of negative growth. Fortunately, I was able to team up with members of both political parties to take a chapter out of this textbook. It's the chapter that says, if you let people