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Week Ending Friday, May 19, 2006

Proclamation 8016—National Defense Transportation Day and National Transportation Week, 2006

May 12, 2006

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

On National Defense Transportation Day and during National Transportation Week, we thank all those who contribute to a sound transportation infrastructure that keeps our country moving, advances our economic growth, and strengthens our national defense.

President Dwight D. Eisenhower recognized the importance of having the world's most efficient and reliable transportation system. In a message to the Congress, he wrote of "a vast system of inter-connected highways criss-crossing the Country and joining at our national borders with friendly neighbors to the north and south." Fifty years after he signed the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1956, the Interstate Highway System is a vital part of America's transportation infrastructure.

My Administration remains committed to providing the American people with the best possible transportation system. In August 2005, I signed the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, and Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users, to upgrade our Nation's network of roads, bridges, and mass transit systems, introduce new safety standards, and fund needed road improvements that will ease traffic congestion in communities across our country. My Administration is also increasing research in advanced transportation technologies that will improve our environment, help us end our reliance on foreign sources of energy, and strengthen our economic and national security.

Modern transportation also enables our Armed Forces to quickly deploy troops, move crucial supplies and equipment, and assist with emergency situations. Whether on land, over water, or in the air, our citizens rely on the safety and efficiency of our transportation systems to arrive at work, deliver goods and services, and travel with family and friends. America is grateful to the dedicated transportation professionals and military service members for their tireless efforts to make America's transportation network the best in the world.

To recognize the men and women who work in the transportation industry and who contribute to our Nation's well being and defense, the Congress, by joint resolution approved May 16, 1957, as amended (36 U.S.C. 120), has designated the third Friday in May each year as "National Defense Transportation Day," and, by joint resolution approved May 14, 1962, as amended (36 U.S.C. 133), declared that the week during which that Friday falls be designated as "National Transportation Week."

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim Friday, May 19, 2006, as National Defense Transportation Day and May 14 through May 20, 2006, as National Transportation Week. I encourage all Americans to learn how our modern transportation system contributes to the security of our citizens and the prosperity of our country and to celebrate these observances with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twelfth day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirtieth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., May 16, 2006]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on May 17. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Proclamation 8017—National Safe Boating Week, 2006

May 12, 2006

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

By providing an opportunity to experience our Nation's scenic waterways, recreational boating is one of our country's most popular activities. During National Safe Boating Week, we underscore the importance of taking safety precautions before going out on the water and encourage all Americans to make responsible decisions while boating.

This year marks the 35th anniversary of the enactment of the Federal Boat Safety Act, which has helped reduce the number of recreational boating deaths in our country. Yet despite significant progress, recreational boating accidents still occur and, tragically, the majority of them are preventable. Operator inattention and inexperience, careless and reckless navigation, and excessive speed are the leading contributing factors of all reported accidents. An estimated 70 percent of reported boating fatalities in 2004 occurred on boats where the operator had not received safety instruction, and of those victims who drowned, nearly 90 percent were not wearing life jackets.

America's boat owners and operators play a large role in helping ensure passenger safety. The United States Coast Guard initiative "You're in Command" serves to educate boaters about how to enjoy our Nation's waters safely and responsibly. For more information about being safe while on the water, boaters can visit uscgboating.org and safeboatingcampaign.com. By taking simple precautions such as wearing a life jacket, taking a boating safety course, getting a Vessel Safety Check, and never boating under the influence of alcohol or drugs, we can continue to save lives and reduce the number of accidents and injuries that occur each year.

In recognition of the importance of safe boating practices, the Congress, by joint resolution approved June 4, 1958 (36 U.S.C. 131), as amended, has authorized and requested the President to proclaim annually the 7-day period prior to Memorial Day weekend as "National Safe Boating Week."

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim May 20 through May 26, 2006, as National Safe Boating Week. I encourage the Governors of the 50 States and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and officials of other areas subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, to join in observing this week. I also urge all Americans to learn more about safe boating practices and always engage in proper and responsible conduct while on the water.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twelfth day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirtieth.

George W. Bush

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Proclamation 8018—Death of G. V. Sonny Montgomery

May 12, 2006

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

As a mark of respect for the memory of G. V. Sonny Montgomery, I hereby order, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States of America, that on the day of his interment, the flag of the United States shall be flown at half-staff at the White House and upon all public buildings and grounds, at all military posts and naval stations, and on all naval vessels of the Federal Government in the District of Columbia and throughout the United States and its Territories and possessions until sunset on such day. I also direct that the flag shall be flown at half-staff for