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Proclamation 8042—National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month, 2006

August 25, 2006

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Alcohol and drug abuse disrupts families, threatens the safety of our neighborhoods, and ruins the lives of countless men, women, and youth. During National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month, we recognize the damaging effects of substance abuse and renew our support for individuals battling to overcome addiction. The theme for 2006, "Join the Voices for Recovery: Build a Stronger, Healthier Community," urges all Americans to help prevent alcohol and drug abuse and to promote treatment and recovery options.

While drug use among youth is down since 2001, we must continue our efforts to help our next generation avoid substance abuse. This work begins with understanding that youth are less likely to engage in risky behaviors when they are connected to strong families and communities. To assist our children in learning to make healthy choices, the Helping America's Youth initiative, led by First Lady Laura Bush, is encouraging local partnerships that empower families, schools, and communities to help our young people reach their full potential.

In order to effectively battle alcohol and drug addiction, we must ensure that Americans in need can readily access services and programs. Over the past 3 years, my Administration has provided nearly $300 million for the Access to Recovery program so that individuals who desire treatment have the ability to seek the form of treatment most suitable for their needs, including assistance from faith-based and community providers. My fiscal year 2007 budget proposes to build upon the success of this initiative by providing $98 million to further expand individual choice.

My Administration is also committed to protecting our citizens and our young people from the scourge of methamphetamine. This substance is highly addictive and is a continuing and devastating threat in too many communities across our Nation. While the number of teens who have ever tried this deadly drug has decreased since 2001, we remain focused on keeping methamphetamine from reaching more Americans. Through the Access to Recovery program, $25 million will be targeted in fiscal year 2007 to help individuals recover from methamphetamine abuse. Additionally, earlier this year I signed into law the USA PATRIOT Improvement and Reauthorization Act of 2005, which increases penalties for smuggling and selling methamphetamine and introduces commonsense safeguards to make many of the ingredients used in manufacturing it harder to obtain and easier to track.

These efforts are helping in the fight against substance abuse in America, yet government action is not the only answer. We are making progress because there are millions of our fellow citizens answering the universal call to love a neighbor. To find out how to join the armies of compassion and be a part of building a stronger, healthier community, interested volunteers should visit recoverymonth.gov and usafreedomcorps.gov. By working together, we can make a difference in the life of someone in need and help fulfill the promise of a more hopeful tomorrow for generations to come.

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 2006 as National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month. I call upon the people of the United States to observe this month with appropriate programs and activities.

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

George W. Bush

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NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on August 30.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

August 19

In the morning, at Camp David, MD, the President had an intelligence briefing.

August 20

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush returned to Washington, DC.

August 21

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

August 22

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he met with the Homeland Security Council to discuss avian influenza.

Also in the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with President Hamid Karzai of Afghanistan.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Minnetonka, MN, where, upon arrival, he met with USA Freedom Corps volunteer David Jewison. Later, he traveled to Wayzata, MN, where he visited Glaciers Custard and Coffee Cafe. Then, at a private residence, he attended a reception for congressional candidate Michelle Bachmann.

In the evening, the President returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced his intention to nominate Charles L. Glazer to be Ambassador to El Salvador.

The President announced his intention to appoint Dennis Prager as a member of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the Board of Trustees of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts: Edward William Easton; James A. Haslam II; Helen Lee Henderson; Nancy G. Kinder; Michael Frederic Neidorff; and Dean A. Spanos.

August 23

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, in the Oval Office, he met with Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice. Then, in the Map Room, he participated in separate interviews with WWL–TV, WVUE–TV, and WGNO–TV of New Orleans, LA, and WLOX–TV of Biloxi, MS.

Also in the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with President Pervez Musharraf of Pakistan to discuss U.S.-Pakistani relations and regional issues. He also had a telephone conversation with United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan to discuss U.N. peacekeeping efforts in Lebanon and the situations in Iran and Darfur, Sudan.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Alexandria, VA, where, at a private residence, he attended a reception for senatorial candidate George Allen.

In the evening, the President returned to Washington, DC.

August 24

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he traveled to Kennebunk, ME, where, at Sea Road School, he met with family members of military personnel killed in Iraq, Afghanistan, and during the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

Also in the morning, the President had separate telephone conversations with Prime Minister Romano Prodi of Italy and Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany to discuss the situations in Lebanon and Iran.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to the Bush family home in Kennebunkport, ME.

August 25

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

The White House announced that the President and Mrs. Bush will host a White House Summit on Malaria in December.