

Week Ending Friday, March 7, 2008

**Proclamation 8223—Irish-American Heritage Month, 2008**

*February 29, 2008*

*By the President of the United States of America*

**A Proclamation**

Since the earliest days of our Republic, Irish Americans have enriched our culture with their faith, values, and hard work. During the month of March, we celebrate the contributions of Americans who trace their ancestry back to Ireland's shores.

Many of the sons and daughters of Erin came to America fleeing famine and poverty. They came with dreams of opportunity, and they helped to build our democracy and advance the cause of liberty. Irish Americans in all walks of life have made lasting contributions to our Nation, and we honor the service of Irish Americans in America's Armed Forces. Throughout our history, those claiming Irish ancestry have helped shape and strengthen America, including as signers of the Declaration of Independence and as Presidents of the United States.

This month, we celebrate the patriotic and proud people who originated from the Emerald Isle and who have played a vital role in the story of this Nation of immigrants.

**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 March 2008 as Irish-American Heritage Month. I call upon all Americans to observe this month by celebrating the contributions of Irish Americans to our Nation.

**In Witness Whereof,** I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-ninth day of February, in the year of our Lord two thousand eight, and of the Independence of the United

States of America the two hundred and thirty-second.

**George W. Bush**

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:55 a.m., March 4, 2008]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on March 5. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

**Proclamation 8224—National Consumer Protection Week, 2008**

*February 29, 2008*

*By the President of the United States of America*

**A Proclamation**

As we face new challenges in the 21st century, we must work to ensure that Americans are kept safe in the marketplace. During National Consumer Protection Week, as my Administration works with Congress to improve our consumer product safety system, we also encourage Americans to make informed financial decisions and take advantage of the resources that can help them become responsible consumers, savers, and investors.

This year's theme for National Consumer Protection Week, "Financial Literacy: A Sound Investment," encourages consumers to take steps to build a firm financial foundation. By becoming informed consumers, individuals can help plan for their future, protect their identity, and effectively manage their finances. It is important for citizens to be knowledgeable on financial matters such as choosing a health insurance plan, comparing savings and retirement plans, and realizing how credit scores can affect them. Education is the first line of defense in helping consumers manage their money wisely and safeguard themselves against fraud and identity theft.

My Administration is working to expand the American people's financial education. In January of this year, I signed an Executive Order establishing the President's Advisory Council on Financial Literacy. This Council will help keep America competitive and assist Americans in understanding and addressing financial matters. By visiting [consumer.gov](http://consumer.gov) and [mymoney.gov](http://mymoney.gov), Americans can discover the tools they need to make financial decisions and be successful in today's marketplace.

**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 March 2 through March 8, 2008, as National Consumer Protection Week. I call upon Government officials, industry leaders, and consumer advocates to make available information about how citizens can help to prevent fraud and identity theft, and I encourage all Americans to gain the financial literacy they need to compete in the 21st century.

**In Witness Whereof,** I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-ninth day of February, in the year of our Lord two thousand eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-second.

**George W. Bush**

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:55 a.m., March 4, 2008]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on March 5. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

### **The President's Radio Address**

*March 1, 2008*

Good morning. Today my administration is releasing our 2008 National Drug Control Strategy. This report lays out the methods we are using to combat drug abuse in America, and it highlights the hopeful progress we're making in the fight against addiction.

When I took office in 2001, our country was facing a troubling rate of drug abuse, particularly among young people. Through-

out America, young men and women saw their dreams disrupted by the destructive cycle of addiction. So I committed our Nation to an ambitious goal. In 2002, we began efforts to cut drug use among young people by 25 percent over 5 years.

Our strategy has three key elements. First, we are working to disrupt the supply of drugs by strengthening law enforcement and partnering with other countries to keep drugs out of the United States. Second, we're working to reduce the demand for drugs through prevention and education programs. And third, we're providing treatment options for those who've fallen prey to addiction.

These efforts have produced measurable results. Since 2001, the rate of youth drug abuse has dropped by 24 percent. Young people's use of marijuana is down by 25 percent. Their use of ecstasy has dropped by more than 50 percent. And their use of methamphetamine has declined by 64 percent. Overall, an estimated 860,000 fewer young people in America are using drugs today than when we began these efforts.

Our drug control strategy will continue all three elements of this successful approach. It will also target a growing problem, the abuse of prescription drugs by youth. Unfortunately, many young Americans do not understand how dangerous abusing medication can be. And in recent years, the number of Americans who have died from prescription drug overdoses has increased.

One of the factors behind this trend is the growing availability of highly addictive prescription drugs online. The Internet has brought about tremendous benefits for those who cannot easily get to a pharmacy in person. However, it has also created an opportunity for unscrupulous doctors and pharmacists to profit from addiction.

One victim of such a doctor was Ryan Haight. The young man from California was only 18 when he overdosed on painkillers that were illegally prescribed over the Internet. With only a few clicks of the mouse, Ryan was able to get a prescription from a doctor he had never met and have the pills sent to his front door. The doctor who wrote Ryan's prescription had previously served time in prison for illegally dispensing controlled substances.