Proclamations

its cultural heritage and helps maintain the living relationship between our
countries.

On the anniversary of Greece’s independence, we celebrate this friendship
and look forward to realizing our common goals and aspirations.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, 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 25, 2009, as “Greek
Independence Day: A National Day of Celebration of Greek and American
Democracy.” I call upon the people of the United States to observe this day
with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-fourth
day of March, in the year of our Lord two thousand nine, and of the Inde-
pendence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-third.

BARACK OBAMA

Proclamation 8354 of April 1, 2009

National Cancer Control Month, 2009

By the President of the United States of America
A Proclamation

We have achieved remarkable progress in the fight against cancer. Miracles
in medical research have helped us understand how to prevent, detect, and
treat cancer more effectively, and Americans are now more aware of how
to protect themselves from this disease.

Despite this progress, cancer continues to kill more Americans than any
other malady but heart disease. Marking National Cancer Control Month,
we recommit to the battle against cancer and emphasize the promise of
medical research and the healthy steps Americans can take to protect them-
selves.

To gain new ground in cancer prevention, detection, and treatment, my Ad-
ministration will continue to press for increased support for research at the
National Institutes of Health, the National Cancer Institute, the Centers for
Disease Control and Prevention, and academic and other institutions. The
Federal Government plays an indispensable role in investing in this re-
search, which will save and improve lives for generations to come.

As researchers work daily to better understand this disease, Americans can
take steps to decrease their risk of developing cancer. Individuals of all
ages should seek regular and appropriate check-ups. These check-ups
should include screening, such as mammograms, the Pap test, and tests for
colorectal cancer, all of which can help detect cancer during its early
stages.

Healthy personal habits can also reduce the risk of cancer. Smoking ac-
counts for thousands of cancer deaths every year, and quitting—even after
many years—can greatly reduce the risk of cancer. Physical inactivity and
obesity may cause a substantial proportion of colon, breast, endometrial,
kidney, and esophageal cancers in the United States, so maintaining physical activity and a healthy diet can help prevent cancer, among other diseases. Finally, moderating alcohol intake and sun exposure can help protect Americans.

Too many American families have been touched by cancer. As we observe National Cancer Control Month, I call upon all courageous cancer patients and survivors, health care providers, researchers, advocates, and others involved in this struggle to work together in support of our Nation’s goal to control, and ultimately defeat, this devastating disease.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, 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 April 2009 as National Cancer Control Month. I encourage citizens, medical institutions, government and social service agencies, businesses, nonprofit organizations, and other interested groups to join in activities that help control cancer.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this first day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand nine, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-third.

BARACK OBAMA

Proclamation 8355 of April 1, 2009

National Child Abuse Prevention Month, 2009

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

When the child next door is maltreated, we all suffer. Every American has a stake in the well-being of our Nation’s children. They are members of our communities, and they are our future. National Child Abuse Prevention Month provides the opportunity to underscore our commitment to preventing and responding appropriately to child abuse. This month, we emphasize the importance of understanding child abuse and the need for all Americans to help families overcome this devastating problem.

The tragedy of child abuse may afflict American children in different ways. Abuse may occur physically, sexually, and emotionally. Child neglect, another form of child maltreatment, may occur physically and emotionally. Understanding the forms of child abuse is critical to preventing and responding to maltreatment.

A well-informed and strong family is the surest defense against child abuse. To help educate and strengthen families, community members can offer their time and counsel to parents and children who may need assistance. For example, parent support groups provide an organized forum for assistance. More informally, community members may simply offer a helping hand to families under stress. More information about what families and communities can do is available at www.childwelfare.gov/preventing.

Civic organizations and government also have an important role to play. Civic groups offer essential support through education, assistance to those