We must ensure that the benefits of trade are spread more widely. This can be achieved by training and supporting Americans and ensuring that trade agreements provide the economic opportunities that Americans deserve. Workers who lose their jobs through no fault of their own deserve the chance to be retrained for a new economic environment. That is one of the reasons I signed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), which improves Trade Adjustment Assistance to help families that are struggling now. For the long term, the ARRA also invests in an education system that will prepare our children to compete and succeed in the global economy.

We will negotiate future trade agreements to create opportunities for all Americans. My Administration is committed to building on existing trade agreements and bilateral investment treaties in an open and transparent manner. In consultation with the American people, the Congress, key stakeholders, and our trading partners, I am developing a plan of action for pending free trade agreements. I will also work with our trading partners to advance a strong market-opening agreement for agriculture, industrial goods, and services through the Doha Development Round and through other negotiations. Together, we can build a trading regime that spreads its benefits among Americans and also benefits workers in our partner countries.

Transparency and inclusiveness are central principles we must adhere to as we seek to expand trade. When trade agreements are negotiated in consultation with the American people, the benefits of trade can be understood more broadly. Through open dialogue, the concerns of American and foreign workers can be addressed and the environmental consequences of trade agreements can be identified and mitigated.

With a transparent, free, and fair framework, we can make trade a powerful contributor to the revival of the U.S. and global economies.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim May 17 through May 23, 2009, as World Trade Week. I encourage all Americans to observe this week with events, trade shows, and educational programs that celebrate the benefits of trade to our Nation and the global economy.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this sixth day of May, 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 8374 of May 7, 2009

National Day of Prayer, 2009

By the President of the United States of America
A Proclamation

Throughout our Nation’s history, Americans have come together in moments of great challenge and uncertainty to humble themselves in prayer.
In 1775, as the Continental Congress began the task of forging a new Na-

tion, colonists were asked to observe a day of quiet humiliation and prayer. 
Almost a century later, as the flames of the Civil War burned from north 
to south, President Lincoln and the Congress once again asked the Amer-

ican people to pray as the fate of their Nation hung in the balance. 

It is in that spirit of unity and reflection that we once again designate the 
first Thursday in May as the National Day of Prayer. Let us remember those 
who came before us, and let us each give thanks for the courage and com-

passion shown by so many in this country and around the world. 

On this day of unity and prayer, let us also honor the service and sacrifice 
of the men and women of the United States Armed Forces. We celebrate 
their commitment to uphold our highest ideals, and we recognize that it 
is because of them that we continue to live in a Nation where people of 
all faiths can worship or not worship according to the dictates of their con-

science. 

Let us also use this day to come together in a moment of peace and good-
will. Our world grows smaller by the day, and our varied beliefs can bring 
us together to feed the hungry and comfort the afflicted; to make peace 
where there is strife; and to lift up those who have fallen on hard times. 
As we observe this day of prayer, we remember the one law that binds all 
great religions together: the Golden Rule, and its call to love one another; 
to understand one another; and to treat with dignity and respect those with 
whom we share a brief moment on this Earth. 

The Congress, by Public Law 100–307, as amended, has called on the Presi-
dent to issue each year a proclamation designating the first Thursday in 
May as a “National Day of Prayer.” 

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of 
America, do hereby proclaim May 7, 2009, as a National Day of Prayer. I 
call upon Americans to pray in thanksgiving for our freedoms and blessings 
and to ask for God’s continued guidance, grace, and protection for this land 
that we love. 

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this seventh day of 
May, 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