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

BARACK OBAMA

Proclamation 8497 of April 12, 2010

Honoring the Victims of the Montcoal, West Virginia, Mine Disaster

By the President of the United States of America
A Proclamation

As a mark of respect for the memory of those who perished in the mine explosion in Montcoal, West Virginia, I hereby order, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, that the flag of the United States shall be flown at half-staff at all public buildings and grounds and at all military facilities and naval stations of the Federal Government in the State of West Virginia until sunset on April 18, 2010.

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

BARACK OBAMA

Proclamation 8498 of April 16, 2010

National Park Week, 2010

By the President of the United States of America
A Proclamation

As a Nation, we have a responsibility to protect America’s natural resources and noteworthy landmarks. During National Park Week, we celebrate the diversity, beauty, and history found in our National Park System.

For nearly 100 years, the American people have entrusted the National Park Service (NPS) to care for the places that fuel our spirit and define our character. By safeguarding our Nation’s historical parks, sites, and monuments, NPS in turn preserves our rich culture and heritage. From the first glimpses of hope at the Statue of Liberty to the harrowing Battle of Gettysburg and the quest for freedom on the Underground Railroad, countless American stories are enshrined in these sites. By visiting them, we can reflect on our shared history and vision for the future.

Our National Park System also includes millions of acres that support educational and recreational opportunities for all Americans. Every day, NPS employees and volunteers dedicate their time and energy to upholding the
beauty and integrity of these lands for future generations. Only by con-
serving our natural treasures—from the verdant forests of the Great Smoky
Mountains to the geysers of Yellowstone and the granite walls of Yosem-
ite—can we share their wonder with our children and grandchildren.

Our national parks provide safe and affordable opportunities for families
and communities to reconnect with nature and have fun together. Our Na-
tion’s historical parks, sites, and monuments also enhance quality of life
and bolster community vitality in many of America’s urban areas. In the
spirit of Let’s Move, the First Lady’s nationwide campaign to tackle child-
hood obesity, I encourage all Americans to visit our national parks and take
part in outdoor activities.

While most national parks are free throughout the year, none will charge
admission during National Park Week, ensuring these treasures are open
and accessible to all. As we acknowledge the wealth of our National Park
System, let us also recommit to responsible stewardship that will sustain
our parks for generations to come.

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 April 17 through April
25, 2010, as National Park Week. I encourage all Americans to visit their
national parks and be reminded of these unique blessings that we share as
a Nation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this sixteenth day
of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand ten, and of the Independ-
ence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-fourth.

BARACK OBAMA

Proclamation 8499 of April 16, 2010

National Crime Victims’ Rights Week, 2010

By the President of the United States of America
A Proclamation

Millions of Americans fall prey to criminal behavior every year, and still
more suffer the physical, emotional, and psychological pain of past of-
fenses. This week, we renew our commitment to supporting crime victims
and preventing crimes that threaten our families and our communities.

Our Nation’s prosperity depends on the safety and security of all Ameri-
cans. Though crime rates have declined in recent years, crime and its dev-
astating effects still require our constant vigilance and attention. To help
protect our citizens and make our neighborhoods safer, last year’s landmark
American Recovery and Reinvestment Act included funding for crime pre-
vention programs, criminal justice initiatives, and services for victims.
Dedicated individuals, organizations, and agencies across our Nation are
also aiding this effort, caring for the survivors of crime by providing shel-
ter, counseling, and other types of assistance.