2010, as Small Business Week. I call upon all Americans to recognize the
tremendous contributions of small businesses to our Nation with appro-
priate programs and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twentieth day
of May, 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 8526 of May 20, 2010

National Maritime Day, 2010

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Even before our Nation declared independence, our forebears recognized
the importance of merchant ships and seafarers to our economic and na-
tional security. Since 1775, America’s maritime fleet has risen to the chal-
lenges before them and worked to meet our country’s needs in times of
peace and war alike. On National Maritime Day, we recognize the men and
women of the United States Merchant Marine for their contributions to
America’s leadership in the global marketplace, and to our security.

Civilian mariners and their ships have played an important role in equipp-
ing our military forces at sea in national conflicts. During World War II,
they executed the largest sealift the world had ever known, and thousands
gave their lives to help convoys with desperately needed supplies reach
our troops. Their service to our Nation continues today. Merchant mariners
support military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as humani-
tarian missions, including the delivery of supplies to Haiti following this
year’s devastating earthquake.

The United States Merchant Marine also shepherds the safe passage of
American goods. They carry our exports to customers around the world
and support the flow of domestic commerce on our maritime highways.
They help strengthen our Nation’s economy; bolster job-creating busi-
nesses; and, along with the transportation industry, employ Americans on
ships and tugs, and in ports and shipyards. Today, we pay tribute to the
United States Merchant Marine, and we honor all those whose tireless
work is laying a foundation for growth, prosperity, and leadership in the
21st century.

The Congress, by a joint resolution approved May 20, 1933, has designated
May 22 of each year as “National Maritime Day,” and has authorized and
requested the President to issue annually a proclamation calling for its ap-
propriate observance.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of
America, do hereby proclaim May 22, 2010, as National Maritime Day. I
call upon the people of the United States to mark this observance with ap-
propriate activities, and I encourage all ships sailing under the American
flag to dress ship on that day.
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twentieth day of May, 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 8527 of May 28, 2010

African-American Music Appreciation Month, 2010

By the President of the United States of America
A Proclamation

Music can tell a story, assuage our sorrows, provide blessing and redemption, and express a soul's sublime and powerful beauty. It inspires us daily, giving voice to the human spirit. For many, including the African-American community, music unites individuals through a shared heritage. During African-American Music Appreciation Month, we celebrate the extraordinary legacy of African-American singers, composers, and musicians, as well as their indelible contributions to our Nation and our world.

Throughout our history, African-American music has conveyed the hopes and hardships of a people who have struggled, persevered and overcome. Through centuries of injustice, music comforted slaves, fueled a cultural renaissance, and sustained a movement for equality. Today, from the shores of Africa and the islands of the Caribbean to the jazz clubs of New Orleans and the music halls of Detroit, African-American music reflects the rich sounds of many experiences, cultures, and locales.

African-American musicians have created and expanded a variety of musical genres, synthesizing diverse artistic traditions into a distinctive soundscape. The soulful strains of gospel, the harmonic and improvisational innovations of jazz, the simple truth of the blues, the rhythms of rock and roll, and the urban themes of hip-hop all blend into a refrain of song and narrative that traces our Nation’s history.

These quintessentially American styles of music have helped provide a common soundtrack for people of diverse cultures and backgrounds, and have joined Americans together not just on the dance floor, but also in our churches, in our public spaces, and in our homes. This month, we honor the talent and genius of African-American artists who have defined, shaped, and enriched our country through music, and we recommit to sharing their splendid gifts with our children and grandchildren.

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 June 2010 as African-American Music Appreciation Month. I call upon public officials, educators, and the people of the United States to observe this month with appropriate activities and programs that raise awareness and foster appreciation of African-American music.