

goal of this small but important Federal agency is the promotion of humanities scholarship and programming.

The study of the humanities increases our understanding of the great traditions of civilization and of the intellectual heritage of mankind. In partnerships with State and local governments, private foundations, and corporations, the National Endowment for the Humanities, over the past two decades, has provided critical leadership and direction for both individuals and institutions seeking to improve our understanding of the humanities.

As a Nation, we have benefitted from the fruits of this humanities programming in a variety of ways: through improvements in humanities education at all levels; through scholarly research at the cutting edge of contemporary issues in the humanities; and through programs and projects in museums, libraries, and the media that foster a heightened understanding of the humanities across America.

The Congress, by Senate Joint Resolution 219, has designated the week beginning February 9, 1986, as "National Humanities Week, 1986" and authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this event.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RONALD REAGAN, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim the week beginning February 9, 1986, as National Humanities Week, 1986. I call upon the people of the United States to observe the week with appropriate conferences, programs, ceremonies, and activities recognizing the importance of the humanities in the lives of all Americans and acknowledging the significant role the National Endowment for the Humanities has played in sustaining and enriching our cultural heritage.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this eleventh day of February, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and eighty-six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and tenth.

RONALD REAGAN

Proclamation 5442 of February 21, 1986

National Hemophilia Month, 1986

*By the President of the United States of America
A Proclamation*

Hemophilia is a genetic disease in which the blood will not clot properly because a specific clotting factor is missing or defective. It is almost exclusively a male disease, affecting one of every four thousand live male births, regardless of race, nationality, or family economic status.

Significant advances have been made in the diagnosis and treatment of hemophilia. Methods of early diagnosis provide the means to institute preventive measures at an early age. Modern blood fractionation technology provides a moderately priced, readily available supply of the needed clotting component for those who must have regular infusions. Still, hemophiliacs face a life of unpredictable medical complications that may result in disability or death.

Proper medical treatment for the hemophiliac, and public awareness and acceptance of this medical condition, will allow the individual to live a normal, productive, and independent life and will dispel many of the common misconceptions of the disease.

To stimulate public awareness about hemophilia and to encourage the development of improved techniques of diagnosis and treatment, the Congress, by Senate Joint Resolution 150, has designated the month of March 1986 as "National Hemophilia Month" and authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this period.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RONALD REAGAN, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim the month of March 1986 as National Hemophilia Month. I invite the Governors of each State, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the officials of other areas subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, and the American people to join me in reaffirming our commitment to finding better ways of helping those afflicted with hemophilia.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-first day of February, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and eighty-six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and tenth.

RONALD REAGAN

Proclamation 5443 of February 24, 1986

National Black (Afro-American) History Month, 1986

*By the President of the United States of America
A Proclamation*

Black history is a book rich with the American experience but with many pages yet unexplored. A chapter once beautiful and tragic was brilliantly illuminated this very year with the first celebration of the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., as a national holiday. This new holiday symbolizes the trail he blazed for others and the struggle of many Americans for full and unfettered recognition of the constitutional rights of all Americans, regardless of race or color.

Black history in the United States has been a proving ground for America's ideals. A great test of these ideals came with the Civil War and the elimination of slavery. Another test came a century later, in the struggle for practical recognition of the rights already won in principle—the abolition of legalized segregation and second-class citizenship.

The foremost purpose of Black History Month is to make all Americans aware of this struggle for freedom and equal opportunity. It is also a time to celebrate the many achievements of blacks in every field, from science and the arts to politics and religion. It not only offers black Americans an occasion to explore their heritage, but it also offers all Americans an occasion and opportunity to gain a fuller perspective of the contributions of black Americans to our Nation. The American experience and character can never be fully grasped until the knowledge of black history assumes its rightful place in our schools and our scholarship.

The Congress, by Senate Joint Resolution 74, has designated the month of February 1986 as "National Black (Afro-American) History Month" and has authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this month.