

Polish Americans can be justly proud of the vital contributions people of Polish descent have made to our Nation in the arts, the sciences, religion, scholarship, and every area of endeavor.

The military genius of Kosciuszko and Pulaski was essential in the defense of our freedoms in the Revolutionary War. Since then, millions of Poland's sons and daughters have helped build our country's prosperity and defend our liberty.

Mankind's desire for liberty is universal. We are, as a country, linked with the Polish people in love for individual liberty, faith, and defense of the family. We share unstinting devotion to political and religious freedom, as expressed so courageously by Pope John Paul II and Lech Walesa.

We have supported the aspirations of Poles in recent years for a greater voice in determining their nation's destiny. We welcome the recent general amnesty for political prisoners in Poland as a positive step. We reaffirm our solidarity with these brave Polish citizens who, at great risk to themselves, have sought to expand liberty and to promote justice in their homeland.

As Polish Americans celebrate their cultural and spiritual values across the country during Polish American Heritage Month, all Americans can express gratitude for Poland's heroic example of faith and sacrifice through the centuries and for Polish Americans' manifest contributions to our Nation.

The Congress, by House Joint Resolution 547, has designated the month of October as "Polish American Heritage Month" 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 October 1986 as Polish American Heritage Month. I urge all Americans to join their fellow citizens of Polish descent in observance of this month.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this thirteenth day of October, 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 eleventh.

RONALD REAGAN

Proclamation 5549 of October 13, 1986

National Children's Television Awareness Week, 1986

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

Television is a medium of enormous potential capable of bringing a myriad of sights and sounds into our homes, schools, and places of work. Parental involvement and guidance can ensure that this miracle of modern technology can be used as an innovative tool of learning to enhance and enrich the education of our children.

The advent of cable television and video cassette recorders has created a technological revolution in the television industry that affords producers and broadcasters virtually limitless possibilities to improve and enrich TV programming. Quality television programming can open wide the windows of curiosity for children and enable them to share in the wonder of man's experience—whether in history, politics, religion, culture, or sports.

Television can also be a powerful tool in convincing children to say "no" to illegal drugs and "yes" to life. Parents now have a wonderful opportunity to work closely with schools, churches, libraries, and community groups to encourage and foster programming that will nurture the intellect and imagination of our children while at the same time promoting and reinforcing parental values that strengthen the family unit. Although television can never replace the adventure of good books, the two can serve to stimulate and reinforce each other while preparing our children to take up the exciting challenges that lie before them.

In order to increase the awareness of how television can be used to enhance the education of our children, the Congress, by Public Law 99-444, has designated the week beginning October 12, 1986, as "National Children's Television Awareness Week" and authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this week.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RONALD REAGAN, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim the week beginning October 12, 1986, as National Children's Television Awareness Week. I invite all of our citizens to observe this week with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this thirteenth day of October, 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 eleventh.

RONALD REAGAN

Proclamation 5550 of October 13, 1986

White Cane Safety Day, 1986

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

As more and more blind and visually handicapped Americans enter the mainstream of society to live and work among sighted people, all of us should reflect on the significance of the white cane. Through the aid of a white cane and an informed public, many blind and visually handicapped people can better enjoy the fullness of life.

The white cane guides its users and signals others—but it also symbolizes the ability of blind and visually impaired citizens to enjoy the freedom and independence meant for all Americans. Sighted people should be aware that many white cane users lead independent lives and that others are well on their way to doing so. White cane bearers should always receive friendliness, consideration, and respect on the street, on the job, and everywhere else Americans' paths cross.

In recognition of the significance of the white cane, the Congress, by joint resolution approved October 6, 1964, has authorized the President to designate October 15 of each year as "White Cane Safety Day."

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RONALD REAGAN, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim October 15, 1986, as White Cane Safety Day. I urge all Americans to salute the independence of those who carry the white cane and to consider how each of us, in our work and in our daily rounds, can show our respect for these proud and able Americans.