

And see the great Achilles, whom we knew.
Tho' much is taken, much abides; . . .

Indeed, much was taken when we lost Challenger's brave crew. Yet much abides, because the American people will forever remember them and salute the devotion to excellence that characterized them and continues to characterize the members of the U.S. space program. That spirit has manifested itself again and again as we have journeyed to the moon and probed planets, our solar system, and beyond. It thrives today as we seek a permanent base in space and further manned exploration.

The Challenger crew made the supreme sacrifice on their quest to extend man's horizons. As we resolve to go forward in space, let us always take with us the spirit of vision, skill, and excellence.

That spirit was evident on September 29, 1986, when the Space Shuttle Discovery lifted off from the launch pad. There could be no more fitting testimony to the Challenger crew and the excellence they personified than this mission, which returned our Nation to manned space flight. May our boundless dreams continue to inspire us in the pursuit of excellence—in space and in every endeavor.

The Congress, by Public Law 100-681, has designated January 28, 1989, as "National Day of Excellence" and authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of that day.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RONALD REAGAN, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim January 28, 1989, as National Day of Excellence. I call upon the people of the United States to observe that day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this eighteenth day of January, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and eighty-nine, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirteenth.

RONALD REAGAN

Proclamation 5936 of January 20, 1989

National Day of Prayer and Thanksgiving, 1989

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

On this Bicentennial of the Presidency of the United States of America, it is fitting to recall our first President, George Washington, who believed in our country's divine destiny. He said, "No people can be bound to acknowledge and adore the invisible hand, which conducts the affairs of men, more than the people of the United States."

As we celebrate this American Bicentennial Presidential Inaugural, we celebrate America's brotherhood—our common ideals, our common kinship, our national unity. We celebrate America as "one nation under God."

As I assume the office of President, I am humbled before God and seek His counsel and favor on our land, and join with our first President who said, ". . . it would be peculiarly improper to omit in this first official act, my fervent supplications to that Almighty Being who rules over the universe. . . that his benediction may consecrate to the liberties and happiness of the people of the United States, a government instituted by themselves for these essential purposes."

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE BUSH, President of the United States of America, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim January 22, 1989, a National Day of Prayer and Thanksgiving and call upon the citizens of our great Nation to gather together on this day in homes and places of worship to pray in thanksgiving for our blessings of peace, freedom, prosperity, and Independence. Let all Americans kneel humbly before our Heavenly Father in search of His counsel and for His divine guidance and wisdom upon the leaders of the United States of America.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twentieth day of January, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and eighty-nine, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirteenth.

GEORGE BUSH

Proclamation 5937 of February 21, 1989

American Heart Month, 1989

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Twenty-five years ago, the Government of the United States of America proclaimed its cooperative support of the fight against the Nation's leading killer—heart disease. This year, as in each year since, that support continues.

Diseases of the heart and blood vessels will claim the lives of nearly one million Americans this year. About one-half of all deaths each year are attributed to cardiovascular diseases—almost as many deaths as cancer, accidents, respiratory diseases, AIDS, and all other causes of death combined.

Nearly 66 million of our citizens, more than one-fourth of our population, suffer from some form of cardiovascular disease. High blood pressure alone threatens the lives of more than 60 million Americans age 6 and older. Heart disease strikes regardless of age, race, or sex. Its toll in human suffering is incalculable.

The American Heart Association, a not-for-profit volunteer health agency, estimates the economic cost of cardiovascular diseases in 1989 will be more than \$88 billion in lost productivity and medical expenses. Each year, cardiovascular diseases account for more than 2 million years of potential life lost, based on a life span of 65 years.

But we are making progress. The American Heart Association and the Federal Government, through the National Heart, Lung and Blood Insti-