

new expressions of music. New Orleans became the center for a particularly American form of music—jazz. This novel genre combined unique rhythms and melodies with the sounds of stringed, brass, and woodwind instruments. Jazz captured the interest of 20th century America, making household names of great African American artists like Louis Armstrong, Charlie Parker, Ella Fitzgerald, and Miles Davis. The unparalleled brilliance of these and other great jazz musicians had an extraordinary effect upon the American musical tradition, while bringing great pleasure to millions of fans.

In the 1940s, rhythm and blues emerged, synthesizing elements from gospel, blues, and jazz; and from these styles came the birth of rock and roll. A fabulous array of artists helped to pioneer this modern musical transformation, including Chuck Berry, Ray Charles, Marvin Gaye, Aretha Franklin, and Stevie Wonder.

As we reflect on the rich and distinctive history of so many talented artists, we celebrate the incredible contributions that black musicians have made to the history of American music and their influence on countless forms of music around the world.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim June 2002 as Black Music Month. I call on Americans of all backgrounds to learn more about the rich heritage of black music and how it has shaped our culture and our way of life, and urge them to take the opportunity to enjoy the great musical experiences available through the contributions of African American music.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this thirty-first day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

GEORGE W. BUSH

#### **Proclamation 7569 of May 31, 2002**

### **National Fishing and Boating Week, 2002**

*By the President of the United States of America*

*A Proclamation*

Our Nation's landscape contains thousands of bodies of water that offer endless opportunities for recreational boating and fishing. Every year, millions of Americans, including me, look forward to enjoying these popular pastimes.

In addition to providing opportunities for recreation, fishing and boating play important roles in our Nation's economy. They support thousands of American jobs and generate millions of dollars that go directly back to protecting and conserving resources at the local level. Since 1950, State fish and wildlife agencies have received nearly \$4 billion through the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act. These funds have helped to purchase over 322,000 acres for boating, fishing and fish production, and research. In addition, funding has been used to

help educate the public about fish and their habitats. These measures enhance the quality of life for people of all ages and continue a vital legacy of environmental stewardship.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim June 2 through June 8, 2002, as National Fishing and Boating Week. During this week, I encourage people of the United States to participate in the thousands of local events scheduled in communities throughout the United States, offering hands-on opportunities for families and friends to share in these recreational activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this thirty-first day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

GEORGE W. BUSH

**Proclamation 7570 of June 4, 2002**

**National Homeownership Month, 2002**

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

Homeownership is an important part of the American Dream. As President, I am committed to helping many more Americans achieve that dream. A home provides shelter and a safe place where families can prosper and children can thrive. For many Americans, their home is an important financial investment, and it can be a source of great personal pride and an important part of community stability.

Homeownership encourages personal responsibility and the values necessary for strong families. Where homeownership flourishes, neighborhoods are more stable, residents are more civic-minded, schools are better, and crime rates decline. Thanks to the resources available in our Nation, more Americans own homes today than at any time in our history. However, among African American and Hispanic families, fewer than half are home owners. My Administration is working to provide all families with the tools and information they need to accumulate wealth and overcome barriers to homeownership.

The Department of Housing and Urban Development is partnering with State and local governments, community groups, and the private sector to make the most effective use of Federal funds. Through a combination of down payment assistance, tax incentives, and education about the process and responsibilities of homeownership, we are helping thousands of Americans buy homes and pursue a better quality of life.

During National Homeownership Month, I encourage all Americans to learn more about financial management and to explore homeownership opportunities in their communities. By taking this important step, individuals and families help safeguard their financial futures and contribute to the strength of our Nation.