

As we continue to fight against terror, we ask the Almighty to protect all those who battle for freedom throughout the world and our brave men and women in uniform, and we ask Him to shield innocents from harm. We recognize the sacrifice of our military families and ask God to grant them peace and strength. We will not forget the men and women who have fallen in service to America and to the cause of freedom. We pray that their loved ones will receive God's comfort and grace.

In this hour of history's calling, Americans are bowing humbly in churches, synagogues, temples, mosques, and in their own homes, in the presence of the Almighty. This day, I ask our Nation to join me in praying for the strength to meet the challenges before us, for the wisdom to know and do what is right, for continued determination to work towards making our society a more compassionate and decent place, and for peace in the affairs of men.

The Congress, by Public Law 100-307, as amended, has called on our citizens to reaffirm the role of prayer in our society and to honor the religious diversity our freedom permits by recognizing annually a "National Day of Prayer."

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim May 1, 2003, as a National Day of Prayer. I ask the citizens of our Nation to pray, each after his or her own faith, in thanksgiving for the freedoms and blessings we have received and for God's continued guidance and protection. I also urge all Americans to join in observing this day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this thirtieth day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand three, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-seventh.

GEORGE W. BUSH

Proclamation 7673 of May 2, 2003

Jewish Heritage Week, 2003

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

The extraordinary heritage of Jewish Americans reflects the strength and spirit of our Nation. Their deep family and community ties and strong religious traditions exemplify America's cultural diversity. Jewish Heritage Week provides an opportunity to recognize the contributions of Jewish Americans to our country and to celebrate their commitment to faith, family, and freedom.

The Jewish people began their search for freedom more than 3,000 years ago. From the struggle of the Exodus, to the miracle of the Maccabees, to the horrors of the Holocaust, to the creation of the democratic State of Israel, Jews have faced and survived many challenges. Jews draw on their faith to provide hope for the future.

For centuries, Jews have immigrated to the United States to realize their dreams and enjoy the blessings of religious tolerance and individual liberty. Today, Jewish Americans play an important role in the success and growth of our country. Their accomplishments in education, industry, science, art, literature, and dozens of other fields have strengthened our Nation and enriched our culture.

Throughout their history, Jewish Americans have demonstrated that goodness can overcome evil. Guided by moral principles, they bring to our Nation a rich heritage that recognizes the dignity of every citizen and the possibilities of every life. Countless Jewish charitable organizations are helping serve the men, women, and children across our country who are in need. Their works of kindness and mercy help to build a more generous and compassionate Nation.

During this week, we also recognize the many Jewish Americans serving in our Armed Forces who are working to rid the world of terror and bring freedom and justice to the oppressed. Every generation of Americans must rise to meet its own challenges, and this generation of Jewish Americans is standing strong to defend our freedoms and help make America a land of opportunity for all.

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 May 4 through May 11, 2003, as Jewish Heritage Week. I urge all Americans to learn more about the rich history of Jewish Americans and to celebrate their contribution to our cultural diversity.

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

GEORGE W. BUSH

Proclamation 7674 of May 7, 2003

Mother's Day, 2003

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

On Mother's Day, we honor the dedicated and caring women who are devoted to their families and committed to improving the world their children will inherit. Our first President, George Washington, said that his mother was "the most beautiful woman I ever saw. All I am I owe to my mother." America owes much of its goodness and strength to mothers, including adoptive mothers, stepmothers, and foster mothers.

Mother's Day began as a day of love and friendship, designed to help heal families divided across battle lines during the Civil War. In 1914, President Woodrow Wilson signed a resolution officially establishing Mother's Day to honor the role of women in the family. On Mother's Day, 2003, we carry on the tradition by recognizing our mothers for their strength and compassion. We also recognize them for showing unconditional love and teaching positive values.