

Proclamation 7676 of May 9, 2003**National Defense Transportation Day and National Transportation Week, 2003**

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

America's transportation system takes us where we need to go, keeps our economy moving, and strengthens our Nation's security. On National Defense Transportation Day and during National Transportation Week, we celebrate how modern transportation has transformed the world and recognize the men and women who have contributed to its progress. We also renew our commitment to increasing transportation safety and to keeping our transportation system on the leading edge of technology.

Our 21st century transportation system safely and securely transports our citizens and delivers a wide range of goods throughout the country and the world. In times of war, our transportation system also moves troops and carries defense cargo efficiently. Preserving and enhancing our transportation resources makes that infrastructure safer, facilitates growth in business and industry, creates jobs, secures our Nation, and improves the quality of life of our citizens.

To sustain these advantages, we must continue to invest in our Nation's transportation systems. From enhancing existing highways, waterways, railway lines, pipelines, and airports, to developing fuel-efficient and reduced-emissions vehicles, we must work towards improving safety, protecting the environment, and furthering our national defense. As part of these efforts, my Administration has announced a hydrogen fuel initiative to reverse America's growing dependence on foreign oil by developing the technology to produce commercially viable, hydrogen fuel cells, which will help power cars and trucks with no emissions of air pollution or greenhouse gases. This new national commitment could make it possible for the first car driven by a child born today to be powered by hydrogen, and be pollution-free.

Through the newly created Department of Homeland Security, my Administration is working towards strengthening protections throughout our national transportation system. Designed to increase protections for America's citizens while maintaining the free flow of goods and people across our borders, our comprehensive national plan includes selective maritime restrictions, increased airport security, and improved railroad infrastructure security. We are also enforcing temporary flight restrictions and flying Combat Air Patrols over critical sites, increasing surveillance of hazardous material shipments within our country, and taking measures to keep hazardous materials away from places where large numbers of people gather. We are determined to defend the American homeland, and we will do all in our power to make sure our skies, rails, pipelines, waterways, and roads are safe from terror.

To recognize the men and women who work in the transportation industry and who contribute to our Nation's well-being, and defense, the Congress, by joint resolution approved May 16, 1957, as amended (36 U.S.C. 120), has designated the third Friday in May of each year as "National Defense Transportation Day," and, by joint resolution ap-

proved May 14, 1962, as amended (36 U.S.C. 133), declared that the week during which that Friday falls be designated as “National Transportation Week.”

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim Friday, May 16, 2003, as National Defense Transportation Day and May 11 through May 17, 2003, as National Transportation Week. I encourage all Americans to learn more about how our modern transportation system enhances our economy and contributes to our freedom.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this ninth 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 7677 of May 9, 2003

National Safe Boating Week, 2003

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

As summer approaches, Americans are looking forward to enjoying our Nation’s rivers, lakes, and oceans. National statistics show that recreational boating is safer today than ever before, with the number of boating fatalities declining even as the number of boats increases. However, lives continue to be lost needlessly, and we must remain committed to boating safety. During National Safe Boating Week, we are reminded that practicing simple steps can make recreational boating safer and more enjoyable.

This year’s theme, “Boat Smart. Boat Safe. Wear It!” highlights the importance and ease of wearing life jackets. Drowning remains the number one cause of recreational boating fatalities. According to the United States Coast Guard, nearly 80 percent of those who died in boating accidents in 2001 were not wearing life jackets. In many of these cases, life jackets were available on board, but were useless to the passengers in the boats because the speed and suddenness of the accident prevented them from having time to put on their life jackets. The chances of surviving a serious boating accident increase dramatically by wearing a life jacket. Modern life jackets are smaller, lighter, and more flexible, making them easier and more comfortable to wear.

The National Safe Boating Council, the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators, and the U.S. Coast Guard are working with other campaign partners to encourage safe boating practices through the 2003 North American Safe Boating Campaign. In addition to wearing life jackets, the campaign encourages boaters to enroll in a boating safety class, to ensure that boats are properly maintained and checked for safety, to follow regulations and guidelines relating to homeland security issues, and not to consume alcohol when operating a boat. More information about staying safe on the water is available by visiting the U.S. Coast Guard’s Office of Boating Safety website at