

the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-ninth.

BARACK OBAMA

**Proclamation 9197 of October 17, 2014**

**National Forest Products Week, 2014**

*By the President of the United States of America*

*A Proclamation*

Our Nation's forests are an essential element of our urban spaces and rural landscape. Covering more than 750 million acres across America, they create opportunities for recreation and habitats for wildlife, and their products play an integral role in our Nation's economy and our daily lives. Paper and wood products allow us to communicate, teach, and learn. They provide us shelter and energy, and they package and deliver our food, medicine, and manufactured goods. And whether it is a paper containing the Gettysburg Address or a child's crayon masterpiece, these products capture life's memorable moments across generations. During National Forest Products Week, we celebrate the many uses of our natural bounty, and we renew our commitment to protect our forests and ensure these resources endure.

Forest products are recyclable and renewable, and in a changing climate, responsible management of our Nation's forests is even more important. Our forests purify the air we breathe and provide clean water to our communities. By absorbing and storing carbon dioxide, forests and forest products help reduce the greenhouse gases in our atmosphere, removing roughly 16 percent of our carbon emissions. In the face of increased threats to our forests—including diseases and insect infestations that spread more quickly, droughts that last longer, and wildfires that burn more frequently and more intensely—we are taking action to preserve these vital pieces of our environment and economy. As part of my Administration's Climate Action Plan, we are increasing the resilience of our country's forests and preserving their key role in mitigating climate change.

My Administration is committed to safeguarding these green spaces across our country for the use and enjoyment of our children and grandchildren. Through our America's Great Outdoors Initiative, we are empowering communities to do their part to protect their forested land, from urban parks to working forests. When cities and towns have the support they need to conserve their own resources, neighborhoods thrive and local economies grow.

For centuries, our forests have shaped the character of our Nation and contributed to its expansion, and we have an obligation to ensure the next generation has access to the same drivers of progress. This week, we resolve to do our part to protect our forests and secure a cleaner, healthier future for posterity.

To recognize the importance of products from our forests, the Congress, by Public Law 86-753 (36 U.S.C. 123), as amended, has designated the week beginning on the third Sunday in October of each year as "Na-

tional Forest Products Week” and has authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this week.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim October 19 through October 25, 2014, as National Forest Products Week. I call on the people of the United States to join me in recognizing the dedicated individuals who are responsible for the stewardship of our forests and for the preservation, management, and use of these precious natural resources for the benefit of the American people.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this seventeenth day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand fourteen, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-ninth.

BARACK OBAMA

**Proclamation 9198 of October 23, 2014**

**United Nations Day, 2014**

*By the President of the United States of America*

*A Proclamation*

In 1945, in the shadow of a world war and the face of an uncertain future, 51 founding nations joined in common purpose to establish the United Nations and codify its mission to maintain international peace and security, encourage global cooperation, and promote universal respect for human rights. Nearly seven decades later, we once again find ourselves at a pivotal moment in history—a crossroads between conflict and peace, disorder and integration, hatred and dignity—dealing with new challenges that require a united response. As we confront these global problems in an increasingly interconnected world, the United Nations remains as necessary and vital as ever. On United Nations Day, we recognize the important role the United Nations continues to play in the international system, and we reaffirm our country’s commitment to work with all nations to build a world that is more just, more peaceful, and more free.

The United Nations fosters international cooperation and enables progress on the world’s most immediate threats and critical long-term challenges. From addressing climate change and eradicating poverty to preventing armed conflict and halting the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, the work of the United Nations supports our shared pursuit of a better world. In this spirit of mutual interest and mutual respect, the international community must continue to find common ground in the face of threats to the prosperity and security of all our nations.

Across the globe, United Nations personnel put their lives on the line to give meaning and action to the simple truths enshrined in the United Nations Charter. Today, U.N. humanitarian staff are providing lifesaving relief to those trapped by conflict; U.N. peacekeepers are protecting civilians against threats from extremists and other violent groups; and U.N. health workers are helping to bring Ebola under control in West Africa and deliver critical medicines to people around the