

upon all Americans to join the countless individuals who administer the National School Lunch Program in activities that support and promote awareness of the health and well-being of our Nation's children.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this eleventh day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand nineteen, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-fourth.

DONALD J. TRUMP

**Proclamation 9949 of October 11, 2019**

**Columbus Day, 2019**

*By the President of the United States of America*

*A Proclamation*

On October 12, 1492, after a perilous, two-month journey across the treacherous Atlantic Ocean, Christopher Columbus and his crew aboard the Niña, Pinta, and Santa Maria landed in what is today The Bahamas. This watershed voyage ushered in the Age of Exploration, changing the course of history and setting the foundation for development of our Nation. Today, we commemorate this great explorer, whose courage, skill, and drive for discovery are at the core of the American spirit.

While Columbus sailed from the port of Palos under the Spanish flag, he took pride in the fact that he was a citizen of Genoa, Italy. The celebration of Columbus Day is, therefore, an appropriate opportunity to recognize the more than 16 million Americans who claim Italian heritage and to carry forth the legacy of generations of Italian Americans who helped shape our Nation. The United States greatly values its close bond with Italy, a longstanding friend, ally, and economic partner. Our relationship, built on shared values and a commitment to furthering peace and prosperity, continues to benefit both of our nations.

Columbus's daring voyage to the New World brought two continents together, enabling a global perspective for the first time. The bold legacy of Columbus and his crew spun a thread that weaves through the extensive history of Americans who have pushed the boundaries of exploration. On Columbus Day, we draw inspiration from this intrepid pioneer's spirit of adventure. We also affirm our commitment to continuing our quest to discover and better understand the wonders of our Nation, the world, and beyond.

In commemoration of Christopher Columbus's historic voyage, the Congress, by joint resolution of April 30, 1934, and modified in 1968 (36 U.S.C. 107), as amended, has requested the President proclaim the second Monday of October of each year as "Columbus Day."

NOW, THEREFORE, I, DONALD J. TRUMP, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim October 14, 2019, as Columbus Day. I call upon the people of the United States to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities. I also direct that the flag of the United States be displayed on all public

buildings on the appointed day in honor of our diverse history and all who have contributed to shaping this Nation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this eleventh day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand nineteen, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-fourth.

DONALD J. TRUMP

**Proclamation 9950 of October 11, 2019**

**Blind Americans Equality Day, 2019**

*By the President of the United States of America*

*A Proclamation*

Blind Americans Equality Day pays tribute to our fellow Americans who are blind or visually impaired for their many contributions to the strength and vitality of our Nation. We renew our steadfast commitment to ensuring their full participation in our communities, workplaces, and social life.

My Administration is committed to promoting policies that foster greater liberty, prosperity, and equality. We are expanding educational, social, technological, and employment opportunities for Americans with disabilities, including blind or visually impaired individuals. We have partnered with States to promote independent living and equal employment opportunities, as well as social, cultural, and athletic activities. Additionally, the President's National Council for the American Worker is developing a national employment strategy to ensure that we have a highly qualified and trained workforce to meet our growing economic needs. We are working to address barriers to employment, combat stigmas, and confront stereotypes that make it more difficult for blind or visually impaired individuals to find and maintain employment. My Administration is also encouraging Federal contractors to take proactive steps to recruit, hire, retain, and advance blind or visually impaired people.

By joint resolution approved on October 6, 1964 (Public Law 88–628), the Congress authorized the President to designate October 15 of each year as “White Cane Safety Day” to recognize the contributions of Americans who are blind or have impaired vision. With the strongest economy our Nation has ever experienced, these Americans are empowered to seek new opportunities for success. Today, and every day, we will continue our efforts to ensure and champion the full and active participation of all Americans, including blind or visually impaired Americans, in every facet of our society.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, DONALD J. TRUMP, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim October 15, 2019, as Blind Americans Equality Day, to celebrate and recognize the accomplishments and contributions of Americans who are blind or visually impaired. I call upon all Americans to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities to reaffirm our commitment to achieving equality for all Americans.