

the nearly five-decades-long Cold War. On World Freedom Day, we remember those who suffered as they longed for freedom behind the Iron Curtain, and we recognize those relentlessly fighting today to break free from the shackles of oppression.

Any system of government that impedes the God-given rights of the people is destined to fail because the flame of liberty cannot be extinguished. As President Ronald Reagan said at the Brandenburg Gate in West Berlin, “The totalitarian world produces backwardness because it does such violence to the spirit, thwarting the human impulse to create, to enjoy, to worship.” On that fateful day in 1989, we saw—with every falling piece of rubble—that the human impulse for freedom cannot long be suppressed. Regimes that attempt to stop the free flow of ideas, the right of a people to choose their own government, and the blessings of free enterprise will inevitably suffer the same fate as the Berlin Wall.

While authoritarian powers seek to collapse the progress and alliances that have developed in the three decades since the fall of the Berlin Wall, the United States stands firm in our commitment to uphold the democratic values at the bedrock of every free society. Today, our Nation works in tandem with our allies and partners to safeguard the precious freedoms that fuel prosperity and ensure stability around the globe. Bad actors will continually try to weaken our cause and sow discord, but democratic bonds will always prevail.

This World Freedom Day, we pay tribute to the heroes who helped liberate Eastern and Central Europe from communist oppression, securing liberty for millions. We also reaffirm our support of those everywhere who pursue the noble cause of freedom.

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 November 9, 2019, as World Freedom Day. I call upon the people of the United States to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities, reaffirming our dedication to freedom and democracy.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this eighth day of November, 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 9966 of November 15, 2019

American Education Week, 2019

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Every child in America deserves equal access to an education that meets their individual needs and prepares them for success. In America, the responsibility for education policy decisions is reserved mainly to the States and to the local officials who know their students best, and we recognize the countless teachers and administrators who con-

tribute every day to innovative solutions at the State and local level. During American Education Week, we celebrate the boundless potential of America's students, honor the teachers, parents, and guardians who help to develop their talents, and commit to expanding educational freedom across the country.

A child begins to learn long before the first day of kindergarten and continues to learn well past high school graduation. Education is not confined to a single method, location, or timeframe, but instead is a process that lasts a lifetime. Our education system should inspire students to become lifelong learners, and it should preserve the rights of parents to play an active role in educating their children, facilitate dynamic teaching styles that fit individual students, and free students to pursue their passions.

Because students have their own unique learning styles, teachers should be free from burdensome regulations and constraints that inhibit their ability to teach students according to their needs. This type of teaching and learning paves the way to rewarding careers and fulfilling lives for young Americans, promoting healthy families, vibrant communities, and continued economic prosperity across our Nation. To create the type of environments where learning can flourish and to seize the opportunities of tomorrow, we must ensure students are able to learn in ways and places that work for them.

My Administration supports educational freedom by opposing one-size-fits-all Federal regulations, restoring decision-making authority to State and local leaders, and empowering families and students. This year, we proposed a transformative new tool for students to access the right education for them: Education Freedom Scholarships. These scholarships will provide up to \$5 billion annually in Federal tax credits for voluntary donations to State-based scholarship programs. This program is a bold and necessary step to ensure every family has the freedom to pursue the educational options that are best for them, regardless of zip code. We look forward to the Congress taking action to approve these privately-funded scholarships and to free millions of students of all ages to learn in new and innovative educational settings, without taking a penny from public schools.

In order to successfully prepare students for the jobs and economy of the future, education must be dynamic and forward-thinking in its scope and focus. This September, my Administration announced \$123 million in new funding to dozens of school districts, nonprofit organizations, and State educational agencies across the country as part of the Department of Education's Education Innovation and Research (EIR) competitive grant program. These grants will create new, innovative, and personalized ways for students to learn. To help the next generation maintain America's leading role in the global marketplace, more than \$78 million will fund projects focused on innovations in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education.

This week, we recognize the power of education and pay tribute to the educators and role models who shape the students of today into the leaders of tomorrow. Their efforts help provide a high-quality education to millions of students, build strong communities, and ensure that America maintains its standing in an increasingly competitive world. Education in America is as important today as it ever has been,

and we remain committed to providing teachers and students with the freedom and resources they need to be successful.

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 November 17 through November 23, 2019, as American Education Week. I commend our Nation's schools, their teachers and leaders, and the parents of students across this land. And I call on States and communities to support high-quality education to meet the needs of all students.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this fifteenth day of November, 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 9967 of November 22, 2019

National Family Week, 2019

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

The strength of our Republic is not measured only by our military might and robust economy but also by the strength of our family bonds. Families shape our values, develop our character, and teach us to love, forgive, and become productive citizens and responsible members of society. During National Family Week, we pause to reflect on the importance of the family—the bedrock of our Nation.

Since I took office, my Administration has empowered families. We are currently in the midst of the longest economic recovery in our Nation's history, which is improving quality of life and stability for families of all types. Thanks to our economic policies, which include eliminating unnecessary and burdensome regulations and the enactment of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, we have seen the unemployment rate drop to a half-century low, real median household income reach a record high, and the poverty rate fall to its lowest level since 2001. We have fought for families by securing a doubling of the Child Tax Credit, preserving the Child and Dependent Care Credit, signing into law the largest ever increase in child care and development block grants—a major new investment in child care affordability—and developing a tax credit for employers who offer paid family and medical leave. We continue to call on the Congress to pass a nationwide paid family leave program.

Last year, I signed into law the Family First Prevention Services Act, which reimagines and reorients our Nation's child welfare system toward keeping at-risk families intact in their own homes and communities and minimizing the need for foster care. This legislation provides funding for mental health therapy, family counseling, addiction treatment, and parenting classes. Additionally, we are working to expand adoption providers so that children of all ages in the foster care system can experience what every child deserves—a loving family in a forever home.