

ings from the United States to the people of Italy on the occasion of the centennial of the unification of Italy:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOHN F. KENNEDY, President of the United States of America, do hereby extend greetings and felicitations from the people of the United States to the people of Italy on the occasion of the centennial of the unification of Italy, in recognition of the progress and achievements of the Italian people during the past century and the bonds of friendship between our two nations.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the United States of America to be affixed.

DONE at the City of Washington this eighth day of March in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and [SEAL] sixty-one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the one hundred and eighty-fifth.

JOHN F. KENNEDY

By the President:

DEAN RUSK,  
*Secretary of State.*

## ARMED FORCES DAY

By the President of the United States  
of America

### A Proclamation

WHEREAS the survival of our cherished freedoms is dependent in large measure upon the capabilities of our armed forces to discourage totalitarian aggression; and

WHEREAS the armed forces of the United States serve as a unified team, at home and across the seas, in the pursuit of a durable peace; and

WHEREAS the strength of our armed forces rests not alone upon their active and reserve members, our industrial productivity, and our human resources, but also upon the understanding and support of an informed American people; and

March 18, 1961  
[No. 3399]

WHEREAS we seek to acknowledge and to manifest our appreciation for the dedication and self-sacrifice of the members of our armed forces and their families:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOHN F. KENNEDY, President of the United States of America and Commander in Chief of the armed forces of the United States, do hereby proclaim the third Saturday of May in 1961 and the third Saturday of May in each succeeding year as Armed Forces Day.

I direct the Secretary of Defense on behalf of the Army, the Navy, the Air Force, and the Marine Corps, and the Secretary of the Treasury on behalf of the Coast Guard, to designate that day each year for appropriate ceremonies, demonstrations, and displays both at armed-forces installations and in civilian communities at the invitation of civil authorities. The Secretary of Defense, as my personal representative, shall assume responsibility for initiating, formulating, and supervising the program contemplated by this proclamation and for soliciting the participation and cooperation in such program by civil authorities and distinguished private citizens.

I invite the Governors of the States, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and other areas subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, and the Commissioners of the District of Columbia to provide for the observance of Armed Forces Day within their jurisdictions each year in an appropriate manner designed to enhance public understanding and appreciation of the armed forces of the United States as defenders of freedom at home and abroad.

I also ask my fellow Americans, as an expression of support for their armed forces and as a symbol of their unity in devotion to the preservation of our country, to display prominently the flag of the United States on Armed Forces Day.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the United States of America to be affixed.

DONE at the City of Washington this eighteenth day of March in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and [SEAL] sixty-one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the one hundred and eighty-fifth.

JOHN F. KENNEDY

By the President:

DEAN RUSK,  
*Secretary of State.*

### CANCER CONTROL MONTH, 1961

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

March 25, 1961  
[No 3400]

WHEREAS cancer strikes in approximately two of three American families and seriously affects the vitality of our Nation; and

WHEREAS the one million Americans who have been saved from cancer are living testimony to the success of control methods produced over decades of arduous and painstaking research; and

WHEREAS it is clear to all who battle this disease that the solution of the problem of cancer will be achieved only by full application of control measures now known and of those yet to be developed; and

WHEREAS it is essential to the health of the Nation that our citizens be aware of the extensive efforts directed toward the control of cancer in order to avail themselves of these measures; and

WHEREAS the Congress, by a joint resolution approved March 28, 1938 (52 Stat. 148), has authorized and requested the President to issue annually a proclamation setting apart the month of April of each year as Cancer Control Month:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOHN F. KENNEDY, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim the month of April 1961 as Cancer Control Month; and I invite the Governors of the States, the Commonwealth of