

Proclamation 3437**NATIONAL FOREST PRODUCTS WEEK, 1961****By the President of the United States of America**October 4, 1961**A Proclamation**

WHEREAS from its earliest history our Nation has depended upon its forest and timber lands as a source of products for its needs and progress; and

WHEREAS our forest and timber lands, with their majestic beauty and universal appeal, provide recreation and inspiration to the people of the Nation; and

WHEREAS through wise management, use, and renewal, and the development and application of scientific knowledge, our forest lands will continue to supply products for the ever-growing needs of the Nation—lumber, paper, building materials, chemicals, furniture, and cloth—all essentials in improving the lives of our people; and

WHEREAS the Congress, in order to reemphasize the importance and heritage of our forest resources, has by a joint resolution approved September 13, 1960 (74 Stat. 898), designated the seven-day period beginning on the third Sunday of October in each year as National Forest Products Week, and has requested the President to issue annually a proclamation calling for the observance of that week:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOHN F. KENNEDY, President of the United States of America, do hereby call upon the people of the United States to observe the week beginning October 15, 1961, as National Forest Products Week, with activities and ceremonies designed to focus attention on the importance of our forests and forest products to the Nation's continued economic growth and well-being.

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 Fourth day of October in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and sixty-one, and [SEAL] of the Independence of the United States of America the one hundred and eighty-sixth.

JOHN F. KENNEDY**By the President:****DEAN RUSK,***Secretary of State.***Proclamation 3438****THANKSGIVING DAY, 1961****By the President of the United States of America**October 27, 1961**A Proclamation**

“It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord.”

More than three centuries ago, the Pilgrims, after a year of hardship and peril, humbly and reverently set aside a special day upon which to give thanks to God for their preservation and for the good harvest from the virgin soil upon which they had labored. Grave and unknown dangers remained. Yet by their faith and by their toil they had survived the rigors of the harsh New England winter. Hence they paused in their labors to give thanks for the blessings that had been bestowed upon them by Divine Providence.

36 USC 163.

This year, as the harvest draws near its close and the year approaches its end, awesome perils again remain to be faced. Yet we have, as in the past, ample reason to be thankful for the abundance of our blessings. We are grateful for the blessings of faith and health and strength and for the imperishable spiritual gifts of love and hope. We give thanks, too, for our freedom as a nation; for the strength of our arms and the faith of our friends; for the beliefs and confidence we share; for our determination to stand firmly for what we believe to be right and to resist mightily what we believe to be base; and for the heritage of liberty bequeathed by our ancestors which we are privileged to preserve for our children and our children's children.

It is right that we should be grateful for the plenty amidst which we live: the productivity of our farms, the output of our factories, the skill of our artisans, and the ingenuity of our inventors. But in the midst of our thanksgiving, let us not be unmindful of the plight of those in many parts of the world to whom hunger is no stranger and the plight of those millions more who live without the blessings of liberty and freedom. With some we are able to share our material abundance through our Food-for-Peace Program and through our support of the United Nations Freedom-from-Hunger Campaign. To all we can offer the sustenance of hope that we shall not fail in our unceasing efforts to make this a peaceful and prosperous world for all mankind.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOHN F. KENNEDY, President of the United States of America, in consonance with the joint resolution of Congress approved December 26, 1941, which designates the fourth Thursday in November of each year as Thanksgiving Day, do hereby proclaim Thursday, the twenty-third day of November of this year, as a day of national thanksgiving.

I urge all citizens to make this Thanksgiving not merely a holiday from their labors, but rather a day of contemplation. I ask the head of each family to recount to his children the story of the first New England Thanksgiving, thus to impress upon future generations the heritage of this nation born in toil, in danger, in purpose, and in the conviction that right and justice and freedom can through man's efforts persevere and come to fruition with the blessing of God.

Let us observe this day with reverence and with prayer that will rekindle in us the will and show us the way not only to preserve our blessings, but also to extend them to the four corners of the earth. Let us by our example, as well as by our material aid, assist all peoples of all nations who are striving to achieve a better life in freedom.

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 twenty-seventh day of October in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and sixty-[SEAL] one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the one hundred and eighty-sixth.

JOHN F. KENNEDY

By the President :

DEAN RUSK,

Secretary of State.