

Proclamation 4579

July 19, 1978

**Citizenship Day and Constitution Week, 1978***By the President of the United States of America***A Proclamation**

September 17, 1978, will mark the 191st anniversary of the signing, in Independence Hall, Philadelphia, of the Constitution of the United States. That great document has endured, with but few changes, as the finest foundation of government in the history of mankind.

By a joint resolution of February 29, 1952 (36 U.S.C. 153), Congress designated September 17 as Citizenship Day, in commemoration of the signing of the Constitution and in recognition of all who, by coming of age or by naturalization, have attained the status of citizenship; Congress also authorized the President to issue annually a proclamation calling upon officials of the Government to display the flag on all Government buildings on that day. By a joint resolution of August 2, 1956, (36 U.S.C. 159), Congress authorized the President to designate the period beginning September 17 and ending September 23 of each year as Constitution Week and to issue a proclamation calling for the observance of that week.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JIMMY CARTER, President of the United States of America, call upon appropriate government officials to display the flag of the United States on all government buildings on Citizenship Day, September 17, 1978, the 191st anniversary of the signing of the Constitution. I urge Federal, State, and local officials, as well as leaders of civic, educational and religious organizations, to conduct suitable ceremonies and programs on that day.

I also designate as Constitution Week the period beginning September 17 and ending September 23, 1978, and urge all Americans to observe that week with ceremonies and activities in their schools, churches and in other suitable places in order to foster a better understanding of the Constitution and of the rights and duties of United States citizens.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this nineteenth day of July in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred seventy-eight, and of the Independence of the United States the two hundred and third.

JIMMY CARTER

Proclamation 4580

August 3, 1978

**National Grandparents Day, 1978***By the President of the United States of America***A Proclamation**

Our nation was shaped by the wisdom and courage of our founding fathers, and by the steadfastness of succeeding generations who have sustained their vision through two turbulent centuries of challenge and growth.

Each American family is similarly shaped and guided by its forbears. Just as a nation learns and is strengthened by its history, so a family learns and is strengthened by its understanding of preceding generations. As Americans live longer, more and more families are enriched by their shared experiences with grandparents and great-grandparents.

The elders of each family have the responsibility for setting the moral tone for the family and for passing on the traditional values of our nation to their children and grandchildren. They bore the hardships and made the sacrifices that produced much of the progress and comfort we enjoy today. It is appropriate, therefore, that as individuals and as a nation, that we salute our grandparents for their contribution to our lives.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JIMMY CARTER, President of the United States of America, do hereby designate Sunday, September 10, 1978, as "National Grandparents Day." I urge officials of Government at the national, state, and local levels, and of voluntary organizations to plan appropriate activities so that the contributions that our grandparents have made may be appropriately recognized.

I urge each citizen to pause and to reflect on the influence his grandparents have had in shaping his own destiny, and on the legacy bestowed upon our contemporary society by his grandparents' generation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this third day of August, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred seventy-eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and third.

JIMMY CARTER

Proclamation 4581

August 8, 1978

**Fire Prevention Week, 1978**

*By the President of the United States of America*

**A Proclamation**

Fire causes more loss of life and property in the United States than all other natural disasters combined. In the home, fire is the second most frequent cause of accidental death. Volunteer and professional firefighters bear a disproportionate burden of the human costs of fire; firefighting is still America's most hazardous profession.

Every year in this decade 7,500 U.S. citizens have died, 310,000 have been injured and more than \$4 billion worth of personal property has been destroyed. America's fire incidents, casualties, and dollar loss per capita are among the very highest in the industrialized world.

As evidence of my strong personal concern about our fire problem, I have proposed a reorganization plan that would put the federal government's principal fire programs in a new Federal Emergency Management Agency. This agency would coordinate America's disaster preparedness, mitigation and response efforts. But the federal government cannot reduce America's fire losses by itself. The public and private sector—all individuals, organizations and governmental entities—must help. Together we can eliminate this unnecessary life-threatening destruction.