

fire losses. The public and private sector must do their part. Together we can lessen this unnecessary, life-threatening destruction.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JIMMY CARTER, President of the United States of America, do hereby designate October 8–14, 1979, as Fire Prevention Week.

Because fire deaths most often occur in homes, I call upon American families and other property owners to install smoke detectors, to practice exit drills, and to be especially vigilant in guarding against fires.

I encourage the fire service, police, prosecutors, the insurance industry, and government to work together to improve arson detection and prosecution so that we can begin to eliminate this costly, often murderous crime.

I call upon every fire department in the country to teach citizens the fundamentals of basic life support, cardio-pulmonary resuscitation, and to improve the delivery of emergency medical services.

I urge the fire service to fully open their profession to women, and I offer my support to the growing number of professional and volunteer women firefighters.

I encourage the fire service to take full advantage of the National Fire Academy that became a reality this year. The Academy will be an effective tool in providing training and education for the Nation's firefighters.

I support and encourage the cooperative efforts of private enterprise and government in developing low cost residential sprinkler systems that may revolutionize fire safety in the home.

Finally, I call upon members of the Joint Council of National Fire Service Organizations, members of the International Association of Fire Fighters, members of the International Association of Fire Chiefs, the National Fire Protection Association, all other organizations concerned with fire safety, and the United States Fire Administration to provide the leadership, planning and innovation necessary for an effective national fire prevention and control effort.

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

JIMMY CARTER

Proclamation 4673 of August 16, 1979

General Pulaski's Memorial Day, 1979

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

On the eleventh day of October, the people of the United States will honor the 200th anniversary of the death of the Polish patriot, Casimir Pulaski. On the bicentennial of his death, caused by wounds suffered during the Battle of Savannah, we are reminded of his heroism and his selflessness as he led his famous cavalry unit, The Pulaski Legion, in the struggle for American independence.

As we pay tribute to General Pulaski and his sacrifices for freedom, both here and in his native land, we also honor the contributions made by generations of Americans of Polish descent to the greatness of our Nation.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JIMMY CARTER, President of the United States of America, do hereby designate Thursday, October 11, 1979, as General Pulaski's Memorial Day, and I direct the appropriate government officials to display the flag of the United States on all government buildings on that day.

I also invite the people of the United States to honor the memory of General Pulaski by holding appropriate exercises and ceremonies in suitable places throughout our land.

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

JIMMY CARTER

Proclamation 4674 of August 20, 1979

Women's Equality Day, 1979

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

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On August 26, 1920, fifty-nine years ago, the 19th Amendment became a part of the United States Constitution, guaranteeing women the right to vote.

As we celebrate the anniversary of that victory for all Americans, we applaud the courage of the women and men who struggled for generations to achieve it. But the 19th Amendment was only one step on the long journey toward full equality for women.

Through persistent and dedicated effort, women have made great strides toward achieving that equality in recent years. But the need for the Equal Rights Amendment is still compelling. Today, I reiterate my continued commitment to make the ERA a part of our Constitution.

The ERA does not legislate that men and women are the same. It simply says that the law cannot penalize women because they are female. Nor does the ERA impose new, unwanted roles on women. Rather, it safeguards their opportunity to develop their full potential in the directions they choose. As women are freed from arbitrary barriers and stereotypes, men are liberated as well.

When passed, the ERA will provide a single, clear, comprehensive standard against which discrimination can be measured. Legal equality for women must be made a part of the Constitution.

The ERA is not a recent idea. It was first introduced in Congress in 1923. After lengthy and careful debate, Congress submitted it to the States for ratification on March 22, 1972. Now all but three of the necessary thirty-eight states have ratified it. The deadline is June 30, 1982.