

Yet, the very core of nursing—caring for patients at the bedside—remains unchanged. Nurses bring a special compassion and concern for the patient and for the patient's family.

Nurses play a vital role in educating people in how to avoid illness and promote good health.

Nurses are essential to every health care setting—in hospitals, nursing homes, ambulatory care centers, and patients' homes.

Cardiac, post-surgical, trauma, and burn units require intensive nursing care around the clock. Community health nurses enable the elderly to receive needed care in their own homes. Nurses trained in maternal and child health provide much of the care in urban and rural clinics.

Nurses with specialized training treat cancer patients, stroke victims, and psychiatric patients. Nurse researchers are developing new and better ways to improve nursing practice, reduce patient stress, and help patients and their families cope with illness.

The nurses of this country deserve our gratitude for their personal and professional contributions to the improved health of American citizens.

The Congress has, by House Joint Resolution 263, Public Law 97-57, demonstrated its commitment by requesting me to designate May 6, 1982, as National Recognition Day for Nurses.

95 Stat. 978.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RONALD REAGAN, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim May 6, 1982, as National Recognition Day for Nurses.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 24th day of March, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and eighty-two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and sixth.

RONALD REAGAN

Proclamation 4914 of March 25, 1982

Zoo and Aquarium Month, 1982

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Zoos and aquariums play a major role in the cultural life of our nation, providing a wholesome recreational and educational environment for more than 125 million visitors and a living classroom for some 20 million school children each year.

Among the 200 zoos and aquariums located in the United States are some of the finest facilities in the world. Many of our zoos and aquariums have pioneered in efforts to conserve the thousands of species they house. They have also collaborated with institutions around the globe to preserve wildlife and to develop more sophisticated techniques for exhibiting animals in a natural setting.

Animals are a universal language, and they have appeal to people everywhere. By enabling us to experience animals firsthand and to learn about their habitats, zoos and aquariums have become a valuable and unique asset.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RONALD REAGAN, President of the United States of America, do hereby designate the month of June, 1982, as Zoo and Aquarium Month.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-fifth day of March, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and eighty-two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and sixth.

RONALD REAGAN

Proclamation 4915 of March 25, 1982

National Defense Transportation Day and National Transportation Week, 1982

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Transportation is essential to the development, defense, and enjoyment of our country. Pacing the evolution of our nation, transportation keeps America moving, producing, and growing.

Our earliest settlements flourished on the banks of our river systems—our first avenues of transportation that serve us still. Following trails blazed by the pioneers traveling west, the Interstate Highways remind us of the great strides we have taken in transportation.

Completion of the transcontinental railroad in 1869 ushered in a new era of transportation. Steel tracks stretched across the country to open the west, link our seacoasts, and strengthen American commerce.

From its humble beginnings at Kitty Hawk, the U.S. aviation industry has grown to include a vast network of airports and commercial and private aircraft that fly millions of people and an ever-increasing amount of cargo.

As our cities grew, transit systems developed to provide people with affordable and convenient transportation. This century brought the automobile, truck, intercity bus, and an expanded road system that includes thousands of miles of Interstate Highways.

The American maritime industry connects the inland and coastal ports of the United States with port cities around the globe and transports U.S. agricultural, mining, and industrial products to foreign shores.

Each of these elements of our transportation system also contributes to a vital concern—our national defense. The great capacity of our system to move supplies and to transport men and equipment in times of emergency is a cornerstone of our defense. It allows our nation to respond rapidly and in force to threats to our security anywhere in the world.

To recognize the critical importance of our transportation system and to honor the millions of Americans who build, operate, maintain, and safeguard this vital network, we designate one week each year as National Transportation Week.