

he referred to Brig. Gen. Neal Sealock, USA, U.S. Embassy Defense Attache in Beijing. On Sunday, April 1, a U.S. Navy EP-3E Aries II electronic surveillance aircraft made an emergency landing on China's Hainan Island after a mid-air collision with a Chinese F-8 fighter jet over the South China Sea. The 24-member crew (21 men and 3 women), consisting of one Marine, one Air Force and 22 Navy personnel, have been held by the Chinese since the incident. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Statement on House of Representatives Action on Estate Tax Legislation

April 4, 2001

The House of Representative's action on eliminating the death tax is a victory for fairness and a vote for economic growth. I applaud the spirit of cooperation in both parties that led to today's result.

The death tax lacks common sense and thwarts free enterprise. It is unfair to families who have devoted their lives to building family farms and small businesses. Today's vote is an important step toward restoring fairness in the Tax Code by eliminating the double and triple taxation that results from the death tax.

I look forward to continuing to work with Members of Congress from both parties to enact real and meaningful tax relief for the American people.

Proclamation 7422—National Organ and Tissue Donor Awareness Week, 2001

April 4, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Organ and tissue transplantation is one of the most significant advances in medicine. Wonderful success stories give hope to people of all ages, and donors and their families deserve our deepest gratitude. Their extraordinary generosity and foresight have given countless individuals the opportunity to rear

a family, hold a job, and pursue fuller and more active lives.

Unfortunately, many people are not able to reap the benefits of remarkable transplant technology. More than 75,000 Americans are on the national organ transplant waiting list, and every 13 minutes, another person will be added to the waiting list. Sadly, each day, 15 of those on the waiting list will die because the need for organs far exceeds the number donated.

The Department of Health and Human Services and health professionals across the country are dedicated to improving these statistics. By becoming organ donors, Americans can join in this important mission to help those suffering from a life-threatening illness caused by the failure of a vital organ. Persons can participate by simply completing and carrying a donor card and informing family and friends of their wish to donate. Such decisions will make a significant difference in the number of available organs for donation.

Many Americans have set a powerful example in this regard, agreeing to become an organ donor and taking a selfless action that may potentially save lives. I encourage other Americans to consider organ donation and to join me in expressing gratitude for those who have already made the gift of life.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim April 15 through 21, 2001, as National Organ and Tissue Donor Awareness Week. I call upon medical professionals, government agencies, private organizations, and educators to join me in raising awareness of the need for organ donors in communities throughout our Nation.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this fourth day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fifth.

George W. Bush

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