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America the two hundred and twenty-seventh.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., April 29, 2003]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on April 30.

Proclamation 7667—National Volunteer Week, 2003

April 25, 2003

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Volunteering is central to the American character and is a fundamental expression of responsible citizenship. From our Nation's earliest days, people came together to do whatever was needed for the public good—from raising barns and providing mutual security to organizing educational activities and caring for their neighbors. Though our country has changed dramatically since its founding, the need for service has not. During National Volunteer Week, we recognize our proud legacy of volunteer service and resolve to encourage more Americans to continue strengthening our country by helping others.

This is a time for all Americans to be active citizens, not spectators. For that reason, I have created the USA Freedom Corps to mobilize our citizens and provide opportunities for individuals and organizations to contribute to important causes. As part of this initiative, I have asked all Americans to dedicate at least 4,000 hours over the rest of their lives to serving their neighbors and their Nation. Since that call to service, our citizens have responded with an outpouring of kindness that is transforming our country, one heart and one soul at a time. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, more than 59 million Americans volunteered last year through charitable organizations.

These individuals served in a variety of ways—mentoring and tutoring children, providing companionship to the elderly, running community theaters and arts programs, cleaning highways and parks, staffing essential community organizations, and offering physical and spiritual aid to the hungry and homeless. In addition, citizen volunteers have contributed to the ongoing war on terror by helping families and communities prevent, prepare for, and respond to emergencies. Across our Nation, our citizens are recognizing that everyone can do something to help and that serving those in need benefits the volunteer also.

My Administration has taken several steps to build on this progress and continue the momentum created by these millions of acts of service. Most recently, I formed the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation, and charged them with creating a nationwide recognition program called the President's Volunteer Service Awards. These awards will be given to individuals and organizations engaged in a variety of volunteer services who have made a sustained commitment to service over the course of 1 year, and enhance our ability to pay tribute to volunteers and the impact their service has on our communities and our country.

National Volunteer Week offers each of us the opportunity to recognize one of the true strengths of our Nation—the compassionate spirit of our citizens. I urge all Americans to continue to uphold this spirit and answer the call to service to help ensure that all our citizens realize the promise of America. Together, we can achieve a hopeful future for all.

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 27 through May 3, 2003, as National Volunteer Week. I call on all Americans to join together to celebrate the invaluable work that volunteers perform every day across our country, and to commit themselves to do more for their neighbors in need through the many volunteer programs available in their communities.

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

George W. Bush

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Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

April 19

In the morning, at the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX, the President had an intelligence briefing.

April 20

In the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to Fort Hood, TX, and later returned to the Bush Ranch in Crawford.

April 21

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush returned to Washington, DC.

April 22

In the morning, the President had intelligence and FBI briefings.

In the afternoon, the President had lunch with Vice President Dick Cheney. Later, he met with Secretary of State Colin L. Powell.

During the day, the President had a telephone conversation with former Gov. Jim Edgar of Illinois to discuss Edgar's possible candidacy for Senate in 2004.

The President announced the recess appointment of Peter Eide as General Counsel of the Federal Labor Relations Authority.

The President announced the recess appointment of R. Bruce Matthews as a member of the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board.

The President announced the recess appointment of Naomi Churchill Earp as a member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, and her designation as Vice Chairman.

The President announced the recess appointment of Neil McPhie as a member of the Merit Systems Protection Board.

The President announced the recess appointment of William A. Schambra as a member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for National and Community Service.

The President announced the recess appointment of Donna N. Williams as a member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for National and Community Service.

The President announced the recess appointment of April H. Foley as a member of the Board of Directors of the Export-Import Bank of the United States.

The President announced the recess appointment of Stanley C. Suboleski as a member of the Federal Mine Health and Safety Review Commission.

The President announced the recess appointment of Lillian R. BeVier as a member of the Board of Directors of the Legal Services Corporation.

The President announced the recess appointment of Thomas A. Fuentes as a member of the Board of Directors of the Legal Services Corporation.

The President announced the recess appointment of James C. Miller III as a Governor of the Board of Governors of the U.S. Postal Service.

April 23

In the morning, the President had intelligence and FBI briefings and met with the National Security Council. Later, he had a telephone conversation with Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey to discuss the situation in Iraq, Turkey's economic reforms, and U.S. aid to Turkey.

Later in the morning, in the Oval Office, the President met with President Jorge Batlle of Uruguay to discuss the situation in Iraq, the war against terror, and economic recovery efforts and U.S. trade and investment in Uruguay.

In the afternoon, in the Oval Office, the President presented the Harry Yount National Park Service Ranger of the Year Award to Duncan Hollar.