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Month. I encourage all Americans to commemorate this month with appropriate programs and activities and to learn more about the rich heritage of American Indians and Alaska Natives.

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

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 9:39 a.m., November 8, 2004]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on November 9.

Proclamation 7841—National Diabetes Month, 2004

November 4, 2004

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

More than 18 million Americans are estimated to have diabetes. Diabetes is the leading cause of new blindness, end-stage kidney disease, and nontraumatic amputations. It can also double a person's risk of heart attack and stroke and can cause nervous system damage and premature death. During National Diabetes Month, we seek to raise awareness of the impact of diabetes on our citizens, and we recognize those committed to improving the treatment and prevention of this chronic disease.

Approximately one million Americans have been diagnosed with type 1 diabetes, once known as juvenile diabetes. It develops from autoimmune, genetic, and environmental influences, most often striking children, adolescents, and young adults. By developing the disease so young, people with type 1 diabetes have a greater risk for serious complications. Type 2 diabetes affects approximately 17 million Americans, and is most common in people over 40 who are overweight, inactive, or have a family history of this disease. While people of all backgrounds are affected, type 2 diabetes disproportionately strikes African Americans, Hispanic Americans, Asian Americans, and Native Americans. The number of Americans with type 2 diabetes has grown dramatically, and many more Americans are at high risk for developing it.

My Administration is committed to funding diabetes research. This year, the National Institutes of Health dedicated $993 million for diabetes research, and I have requested more that $1 billion for 2005, a 49 percent increase since 2001.

We are also working to raise awareness of the risk factors associated with diabetes. According to clinical research, people at risk for type 2 diabetes can reduce their risk by approximately 58 percent if they lose a modest amount of weight and stay physically active. Those who already live with diabetes can greatly reduce their risk for heart disease and stroke by controlling their blood sugar, blood pressure, and cholesterol.

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 November 2004 as National Diabetes Month. I call upon all Americans to observe this month with appropriate programs and activities.

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

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 9:39 a.m., November 8, 2004]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on November 9.

Proclamation 7842—National Family Caregivers Month, 2004

November 4, 2004

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Every day, family caregivers across our Nation are caring for loved ones who are aging, chronically ill, or disabled. Through their selfless actions, they bring comfort to those

in need, enrich their own lives, and reflect the true spirit of America.

America is a country of hope and promise that honors the dignity of all its citizens. Our family caregivers sometimes sacrifice their own emotional and physical needs to dedicate their time and energy to serving their loved ones. By taking on this enormous responsibility, they are helping honor life in all its seasons.

My Administration remains committed to supporting the important contributions of family caregivers. My fiscal year 2005 budget includes tax relief for Americans who need long-term care and individuals who care for these family members in their homes. We will also continue to work with employers, faith-based and community organizations, universities, and national aging organizations to bring critical services such as individual counseling, educational activities, respite care, and family leave policies to more Americans.

By bringing loving support to their loved ones, our Nation's family caregivers make our country a better place. During National Family Caregivers Month, we honor their generosity and dedication, and we recognize the vital role of family in the lives of our citizens.

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 November 2004 as National Family Caregivers Month. I encourage all Americans to honor and support the family members, friends, and neighbors who provide care to their loved ones in need.

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

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 9:39 a.m., November 8, 2004]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on November 9.

Proclamation 7843—National Hospice Month, 2004

November 4, 2004

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Hospice programs are a vital part of our Nation's health care system. They provide comfort, peace, and dignity for individuals in the final stage of life and their families. During National Hospice Month, we recognize the dedicated professionals and volunteers who provide hospice care, and we emphasize the importance of respecting and honoring life in all of its seasons.

For many terminally ill patients, hospice care is a compassionate alternative to traditional care at a hospital or nursing home. Hospice physicians, nurses, counselors, and volunteers focus on making patients as comfortable as possible, while allowing patients to remain at home and close to their families. With comprehensive assistance, these caregivers help control pain and other symptoms and provide emotional and spiritual support to both patient and family. In 2002, according to the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization, an estimated 885,000 individuals were admitted to one of the over 3,000 hospice programs in the United States.

My Administration has acted to strengthen and modernize Medicare for our seniors, and we remain committed to providing a health care system that meets the needs of every patient. Hospice services are covered by Medicare, and many States offer hospice care under their Medicaid programs. The Medicare legislation that I signed into law last December provides that Medicare will, for the first time, cover hospice consultation services so that terminally ill patients and their families will better understand end-of-life issues and care options. The legislation also makes the program more flexible and responsive to the needs of patients, allows patients to designate a nurse practitioner to coordinate their hospice care, and directs the Secretary of Health and Human Services to explore ways to make hospice care more widely available to beneficiaries who live in rural areas.