

**Proclamation 7607—General Pulaski Memorial Day, 2002**

October 10, 2002

*By the President of the United States of America*

**A Proclamation**

Americans celebrate our friendship and common commitment to freedom with the people of Poland each year on October 11, when we honor Brigadier General Casimir Pulaski, a hero of the American Revolutionary War. As a brave Polish patriot, General Pulaski made the ultimate sacrifice for our Nation, giving his life in 1779 to help America gain its independence. His devotion to liberty continues to inspire us today as we join with our allies to secure peace and freedom around the globe.

Before joining the American Revolution in 1777, Casimir Pulaski struggled against oppression in his native Poland, fighting alongside his father and brothers to defend their homeland from Prussian and Imperial Russian invaders. Though his cause was ultimately overcome by those powerful forces, Pulaski was widely recognized for his courageous actions as a cavalry officer and leader of Polish forces. Benjamin Franklin lauded Pulaski as “famous throughout Europe for his bravery and conduct in defense of the liberties of his country.”

When General Pulaski joined General George Washington’s staff, he immediately made important contributions to the war effort. He led a critical counterattack at the Battle of Brandywine that avoided a potential military disaster, earning him a commission as a Brigadier General. American leaders valued Pulaski’s experience in battle, his knowledge of military strategy, and his pioneering efforts that led to a recognition that he was the “Father of the American cavalry.” While leading cavalry forces in the Siege of Savannah, Pulaski was wounded, and died on October 11, 1779.

Two hundred and twenty-five years ago, Casimir Pulaski joined forces with Americans to establish liberty and overcome despotism. That inspiration and solidarity is mirrored today as we engage in a war against terrorism. As part of a global coalition, which includes

the government and people of Poland, we are working to ensure that our two nations remain strong friends and allies in our effort to build a safer, more peaceful world 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 Friday, October 11, 2002, as General Pulaski Memorial Day. I encourage all Americans to commemorate this occasion with appropriate programs and activities paying tribute to Casimir Pulaski and honoring all those who defend the freedom of our great Nation.

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

**George W. Bush**

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., October 15, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on October 16.

**Statement on Senate Action on the Resolution Authorizing the Use of Force in Iraq**

October 11, 2002

With tonight’s vote in the United States Senate, America speaks with one voice. The Congress has spoken clearly to the international community and the United Nations Security Council. Saddam Hussein and his outlaw regime pose a grave threat to the region, the world, and the United States. Inaction is not an option; disarmament is a must.

I commend Members of the Senate for the strong bipartisan vote authorizing the use of force if necessary. The Senate, like the House, conducted this important debate and vote in the finest traditions of our democracy.

Our Nation seeks a more just and more peaceful world. Our nation seeks a safer and better world. America will never waver in its commitment to these ideals.

NOTE: In the statement, the President referred to President Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

## Remarks on Humanitarian Aid to Afghanistan

October 11, 2002

Welcome. Please be seated. Thanks for coming. Laura and I appreciate you coming today, and it's a chance to talk about our vision for our friends in Afghanistan.

It was a year ago that American forces were just beginning the liberation of Afghanistan. And on this date last year, a year ago today, I asked the children of America to contribute one dollar to provide food and medical help to the children of Afghanistan. In a year's time after making that request, we've really accomplished a lot. We have. We have seen, of course, the tremendous skill and character of a United States military. We have seen the courage of our allies and our Afghan friends. We have seen the spirit of the Afghan people, who long for freedom. We've seen the great generosity of our fellow Americans extended to men, women, and children on the other side of the Earth.

And yet today I want you all to know and our fellow citizens to know there's still a lot left to do. There's still a lot of work to do in Afghanistan to achieve our dreams and, more importantly, the dreams of the Afghan people. Today America affirms its full commitment to a future of progress and stability for the Afghan people.

I appreciate so very much the Ambassador for being here. Mr. Ambassador, I want to thank you for your service. The Ambassador is a—was an American citizen until recently. He decided he wanted to serve his country, the land of his birth, renounced his citizenship so he could become the official Ambassador from Afghanistan to the United States. And Ambassador Shahryar is a—is a great man who serves a wonderful example of putting your country above yourself.

And so, Mr. Ambassador, we're honored you're here. I want to thank you—where is he? Oh, Ambassador, you'd think they'd have given you a better seat. [*Laughter*] I'm proud of you. I really am.

I'm also proud of Andrew Natsios, who is our Administrator of USAID. I want to thank him. I'll talk about some of Andy's fellow employees here in a minute and what they're doing on behalf of the American people to help Afghanistan children.

Sharif Faez is the Minister of Education—Higher Education. He too used to live in America. He's now serving his country. He shares our vision and understanding of the need to make sure the educational systems are strong and available, so that people can have hope in his country. Mr. Minister, thank you for your service, and I'm honored you're here with us.

I appreciate the Members of the Congress being here. Dana, thanks for coming. Members of my national security team who are working hard on Afghan policy, whether it be Condi Rice, who's the boss, or Zal—where are you, Zal? Thank you, Zal. He knows a lot about Afghanistan. After all, he was from there. Elliott Abrams, members of my team who care deeply about our policy to make sure that our policy is complete.

The—it's very important for our fellow Americans to remember that—keep in mind about the Taliban. They were the most brutal and oppressive Governments—one of the most brutal and oppressive Governments in modern times. It's hard for us to understand in America, but these are people who attempted to control every mind and every soul in the country. They obviously had a vast network of terrorist camps available to train extremists from around the world. Thanks to America and thanks to our friends, thanks to people who love freedom for everybody, the oppressive rule has been lifted. They're no longer in power. They're on the run along with a bunch of other ones over there, too. Afghanistan has entered a new era of hope. And we want to be a continued part of the new era of hope in Afghanistan.

One of our dear values, one of the values we hold close to our heart, is the respect and beliefs of all peaceloving people, no matter what their faith may be. Islam is a vibrant faith. Millions of our fellow citizens are Muslim. We respect the faith. We honor its traditions. Our enemy does not. Our enemy don't follow the great traditions of Islam. They've hijacked a great religion.