

Week Ending Friday, July 30, 2004

**Proclamation 7803—Parents’ Day,
2004**

July 23, 2004

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

Parents are a source of hope, help, stability, and love for their children. Parents also teach children important values like courage, compassion, self-reliance, reverence, integrity, and respect for others. As we celebrate Parents’ Day, we recognize the important contributions of America’s parents and renew our commitment to standing with our families to help them raise healthy, responsible children.

Parenthood is a privilege and a great joy that comes with great responsibility. Mothers and fathers play the vital roles of provider, nurturer, disciplinarian, counselor, advocate, educator, and motivator. They offer unconditional love and help their children to realize their dreams. As parents work to send the right messages to our young people, they shape the character and future of our Nation.

To help strengthen American families and encourage parents’ active involvement in the lives of their children, my Administration is committed to promoting healthy marriages and responsible fatherhood. We are providing information to parents on early childhood education and development and supporting community-based parenting education programs. We are also providing parents with more options in educating their children and more opportunities to adopt young boys and girls in need.

On Parents’ Day, we honor America’s mothers and fathers for their guidance, support, and unconditional love for their children. The tireless efforts of parents, step-parents, adoptive parents, and foster parents make our Nation stronger and help build a better future for all 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 and consistent with Public Law 103–362, as amended, do hereby proclaim Sunday, July 25, 2004, as Parents’ Day. I encourage all Americans to express their love, respect, and appreciation to parents across our Nation. I also call upon citizens to observe this day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-third day of July, 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, 9:09 a.m., July 29, 2004]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on July 30. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

The President’s Radio Address

July 24, 2004

Good morning. This week, the independent Commission on the September the 11th attacks issued its final report. I appreciate the hard work of the Commission over the past 20 months. They have produced a serious and comprehensive report, and I welcome their recommendations.

Indeed, we have already put into action many of the steps now recommended by the Commission, and we will carefully examine all the Commission’s ideas on how we can improve our ongoing efforts to protect America and to prevent another attack.

The events of September the 11th, 2001, dramatically demonstrated the threats of a

new era. In the nearly 3 years since the attacks, we have waged a steady, relentless, determined war on terrorists. We're fighting them in foreign lands so we do not have to face them here in America, and we are taking unprecedented steps to defend the homeland. Since September 2001, America and our allies have captured or killed thousands of terrorists, removed terrorist regimes in Afghanistan and Iraq, convinced Libya to give up its weapons of mass destruction, and put the world's most dangerous nuclear trading network out of business. We're chasing down terrorist enemies abroad and within our own borders.

On the homefront, we have dismantled terrorist cells and prosecuted terrorist supporters from California to Florida to Massachusetts. As the Chairman of the 9/11 Commission, Tom Kean, said this week, "We are safer today than we were on 9/11." But as Governor Kean also noted, "The danger to America has not passed." In a vast, free society such as ours, there is no such thing as perfect security. And no matter how good our defenses are, a determined enemy can still strike us. Yet all Americans can be certain our Government is using every resource and technological advantage we have to prevent future attacks.

We have created a new Department of Homeland Security with a single mission, protecting the American people. We have established better communications networks to make information on rapidly emerging threats available to local officials in real time. We are transforming the FBI into an agency whose primary focus is stopping terrorism. And we created a new Northern Command in the Department of Defense with the mission of defending the American homeland.

To better protect the country, we have posted Homeland Security personnel at foreign ports, beefed up airport and seaport security at home, and instituted better visa screening for those entering our country. We have placed state-of-the-art equipment in major cities to detect biological agents and stockpiled enough smallpox vaccine for every American, in case of an emergency. And this week, I signed a new law establishing Project BioShield, which will speed the development of new vaccines and treatments against bio-

logical agents that could be used in a terrorist attack.

On Thursday, I visited with first-responders at the Northeastern Illinois Public Safety Training Academy. I thanked them for their service and assured them that America will give them the tools they need to do their jobs. Since September of 2001, my administration has provided more than \$13 billion to equip and train more than a half a million first-responders across America.

There's still more to do. As Commander in Chief, it is critical that I receive the best intelligence to defend the American people. The 9/11 Commission's recommendations will help guide our efforts as we work to protect the homeland. And we can be confident, although the threats of this new century are dangerous, America has the resources, the strength, and the resolve to overcome them.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 6:56 a.m. on July 23 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on July 24. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on July 23 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Proclamation 7804—Anniversary of the Americans With Disabilities Act, 2004

July 26, 2004

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) marked a milestone in our Nation's quest to guarantee the civil rights of all citizens. The ADA is a success story that has strengthened the foundation for an America where we celebrate the talents and abilities of every person.

On the 14th anniversary of this landmark legislation, we recognize the important progress the ADA has brought about for our citizens and our Nation. Today, individuals with disabilities are better able to develop meaningful skills, engage in productive work,