

Week Ending Friday, October 21, 2005

Proclamation 7946—National Character Counts Week, 2005

October 14, 2005

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

During National Character Counts Week, we focus on ways to reach out to our fellow Americans, especially children. Parents are the first and best example of character in a child's life. By volunteering and performing other acts of service in their communities, parents can teach children about the good that comes from helping others. By extending a hand to those who suffer, parents can demonstrate kindness and compassion and help children learn the importance of serving a cause greater than themselves.

Our schools also play a vital part in providing children with the principles they need to grow and succeed. The Department of Education supports character education through its Partnerships in Character Education Program. During my Administration, over 60 State and local education agencies have received funding from the Department of Education to provide programs that teach important values to our youth.

Many citizens around the country are helping in the effort to teach character to children. One of the most important ways to contribute is to become a mentor. By showing love, support, and compassion, one person can make a difference in the life of a child.

During National Character Counts Week and throughout the year, I encourage children and all Americans to make good choices in life, set high standards, and serve as leaders. By working together, we can all contribute to a culture of good citizenship and responsibility that strengthens our Nation.

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 October 16 through October 22, 2005, as National Character Counts Week. I call upon public officials, educators, librarians, parents, students, and all Americans to observe this week with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this fourteenth day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand five, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirtieth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., October 18, 2005]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on October 19. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Proclamation 7947—National Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Week, 2005

October 14, 2005

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

In times of crisis, our Nation depends on the courage and determination of the members of our National Guard and Reserve. Across our country, these dedicated citizen-soldiers are answering the call to serve. During National Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Week, we honor the vital contributions of members of our Guard and Reserve, and we express our gratitude for the support shown to them by their employers.

In every generation, America has turned to the National Guard and Reserve to help respond to natural disasters, secure our

homeland, and defend our liberty. Today, National Guard and Reserve personnel are serving on the front lines of freedom in the war on terror, and they have provided vital relief to our citizens affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Balancing the demands of their families, civilian careers, and military assignments, members of our Guard and Reserve demonstrate personal courage, love of country, and a commitment to duty that inspires all Americans.

Employers play a critical role in helping the men and women of the National Guard and Reserve carry out their mission. In offices, schools, hospitals, and other workplaces, employers provide time off, pay, health-care benefits, and job security to their Guard and Reserve employees. These patriotic efforts allow our men and women in uniform to focus on their military assignments and help strengthen our country. Americans are grateful to these employers for putting the needs of our citizens and our country's safety and security first.

As we continue to fight terrorism and advance peace around the world, Americans stand strongly and proudly behind the men and women of the National Guard and Reserve, and we express our appreciation for the commitment of their employers.

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 October 16 through October 22, 2005, as National Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Week. I encourage all Americans to join me in expressing our thanks to members of our National Guard and Reserve and their civilian employers for their patriotism and sacrifices on behalf of our Nation. I also call upon State and local officials, private organizations, businesses, and all military commanders to observe this week with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this fourteenth day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand five, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirtieth.

George W. Bush

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Proclamation 7948—National Forest Products Week, 2005

October 14, 2005

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

America's forests are a source of pride, and they provide crucial products and materials for our citizens and communities. As we celebrate National Forest Products Week, we recognize the importance of our forests to our economy and way of life, and we reaffirm our commitment to protecting them through wise stewardship and sensible land management.

Across our Nation, people and businesses use forest products to meet their daily needs. Forests provide paper for books and newspapers, lumber for homes and buildings, and materials for countless other items. As good citizens, we have a shared responsibility to cultivate and sustain our forests and minimize the risk of catastrophic fires that harm people, property, and the environment.

My Administration has made good forest stewardship a priority. Through the Healthy Forests Initiative, we are reducing the frequency and severity of wildfires by thinning out and removing forest undergrowth before disaster strikes. The commonsense management practices we are implementing are helping to strengthen our economy, keep communities safe, save the lives of firefighters, and protect threatened and endangered habitats and wildlife.

Sound conservation policies and responsible maintenance provide improved protection for our forests and greater economic prosperity for our citizens. During National Forest Products Week, we renew our commitment to sustain America's forests.

Recognizing the importance of our forests, the Congress, by Public Law 86-753 (36