

the world. At the regional level, we're seeking broad trade agreements in the Americas and Asia Pacific. And at the global level, we're pushing hard for a successful conclusion to the Doha round of trade talks, which has the potential to lower trade barriers across the world.

All of this will bring us closer to a world that lives in liberty, a world that grows in prosperity, a world that trades in freedom. In our hemisphere, that means an Americas where democratic nations work together to advance peace and justice and security; where the opportunity to succeed is as real in Lima as it is in Los Angeles, in Bogota as it is in Boston; where the opportunity for people to realize dreams is just as real in Panama City, Panama, as it is in Panama City, Florida. [Laughter]

And the vision I have for our hemisphere includes a free and democratic Cuba. [Applause] Thank you. Sit down. Thank you.

**Audience member.** *Viva Bush!* [Laughter]

**The President.** I'm not through yet. [Laughter]

In Havana, the long rule of a cruel dictator is nearing an end. As Cuba enters a period of transition, nations throughout the hemisphere and the world must insist on free speech, free assembly; they must insist that the prisoners in Cuba be free. And ultimately, we must insist on free and competitive elections. [Applause] *Sientese.* [Laughter]

I appreciate all you're doing to help make the vision of a free and prosperous Americas possible. That's why I've come to thank you. As business leaders who invest in new products and trade with your neighbors, you add to the vitality and dynamism of this region, and that helps our country. As scholars, people who study how to advance freedom and peace and prosperity, you've helped people understand the benefits of free trade, and I appreciate what you're doing.

I ask you to do one thing more, and that is to make sure your voices are heard to Members of the United States Congress. You don't need to worry about these three; don't waste your time. [Laughter] But there are people who need to hear from you. I would ask you to tell them that the free trade agree-

ments with Peru, Colombia, and Panama are essential to our economy. I would ask you to remind them they are essential to our security. And I'd ask you to tell them that they're important for our moral interests.

Thank you for giving me a chance to come by. I appreciate you. *Que Dios los bendiga.*

NOTE: The President spoke at 2 p.m. at the Radisson Miami Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to former Gov. Jeb Bush of Florida; and President Fidel Castro Ruz of Cuba.

## **Proclamation 8190—National School Lunch Week, 2007**

*October 12, 2007*

*By the President of the United States of America*

### **A Proclamation**

The National School Lunch Program provides millions of lunches to our Nation's children each school day. During National School Lunch Week, we renew our commitment to the health of our children and to ensuring that they receive nutritious meals and develop good eating habits.

Since it began in 1946, the National School Lunch Program has provided nutritious meals in schools across the country. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has worked to ensure that these meals include fresh fruits, vegetables, and milk and that they meet dietary recommendations so children limit fat, sodium, cholesterol, and excess calories in their diet.

By learning to eat well, children can avoid problems that can lead to serious long-term health problems, including heart disease, asthma, and diabetes. Team Nutrition, part of the USDA Food and Nutrition Service, is playing an important role in promoting good nutrition to children in thousands of our Nation's schools, providing training and resources to food service professionals across our country.

National School Lunch Week is an opportunity to recognize food service professionals, school officials, and parents for their dedicated efforts to provide healthy foods to America's children. This week, we recommit ourselves to encouraging children to make

nutritious food choices and lead healthy lifestyles.

In recognition of the contributions of the National School Lunch Program to the health, education, and well-being of America's children, the Congress, by joint resolution of October 9, 1962 (Public Law 87-780), as amended, has designated the week beginning on the second Sunday in October of each year as "National School Lunch Week" and has requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this week.

**Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush,** President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim the week of October 14 through October 20, 2007, as National School Lunch Week. I call upon all Americans to join the dedicated individuals who administer the National School Lunch Program in appropriate activities that support the health and well-being of our Nation's children.

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

**George W. Bush**

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:53 a.m., October 15, 2007]

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

### **Proclamation 8191—White Cane Safety Day, 2007**

*October 12, 2007*

*By the President of the United States of America*

#### **A Proclamation**

Our country upholds the value of every person, and all Americans deserve an opportunity to realize the American dream. Many citizens who are blind or visually impaired use white canes to achieve greater independence and increase mobility and productivity. On White Cane Safety Day, we celebrate the symbolism of the white cane, and we underscore our dedication to ensuring more individuals have the ability to lead active lives

and achieve their personal and professional goals.

My Administration is committed to helping Americans with disabilities live and work with greater freedom. Through the New Freedom Initiative, we are building on the progress of the Americans with Disabilities Act and helping our citizens who are blind or visually impaired gain greater access to the workplace, school, and community life. By working to tear down barriers, we are creating a society where all people are encouraged to reach their full potential and where the promise of our great Nation is accessible for everyone.

The Congress, by joint resolution (Public Law 88-628) approved on October 6, 1964, as amended, has designated October 15 of each year as "White Cane Safety Day."

**Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush,** President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim October 15, 2007, as White Cane Safety Day. I call upon public officials, business leaders, educators, and all the people of the United States to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs.

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

**George W. Bush**

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:53 a.m., October 15, 2007]

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

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### **Digest of Other White House Announcements**

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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.

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