

That day, President Lincoln called the Nation together in the pursuit of a new birth of freedom. He urged Americans to honor the dead by carrying out the cause for which they gave their lives. With only 10 sentences, he strengthened the bonds of our Union, and rededicated our Nation to the proposition that all men are created equal.

At the time, President Lincoln said that the world would “little note nor long remember” his words. The verdict of history has been quite different. Over the years, the Gettysburg Address has been memorized by generations of schoolchildren—including me and Laura—stands as the greatest Presidential speech of all time.

For nearly 50 years, one of the only handwritten copies of this speech has been kept at the White House. For the next several weeks, it will be on display here at the Museum of American History. And Laura and I are delighted that this important piece of our country’s heritage will be available for all to see.

Among those inspired by the principles in the Gettysburg Address were four African American college students in Greensboro, North Carolina. In 1960, they sat at a lunch counter inside a Woolworth’s department store and asked to be served. Their request was denied, because the counter was designated as “whites only.” When they were asked to leave, those brave students refused to give up their seats. The single act of courage helped power a national movement that culminated with the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. And today, that lunch counter is preserved here at the Smithsonian, in an honored location just down the hall from the Gettysburg Address.

In the lives of Francis Scott Key, Abraham Lincoln, and those brave students in Greensboro, we see the best of America. We see men and women of character who refused to surrender to adversity. We see hope, courage, and a devotion to universal values. And we see a nation constantly moving toward greater freedom and greater opportunity.

Throughout our history, these ideals have called out to those beyond our shores. They have beckoned those who love liberty from every nation. They have made countless generations of men and women across the world

long for the pride that comes with calling yourself an American citizen. Today I’m delighted to congratulate five of you who will be taking your oath of citizenship in just a few moments. Though you are originally from France, Germany, Guyana, Lebanon, and Peru, today you’re becoming members of the American family. We welcome you with open arms. I will be proud to call you fellow citizen.

The Museum of American History is a wonderful place to begin your journey as an American. These halls reflect both the duties and privileges of citizenship. They remind us that America’s highest ideals have always required brave defenders. They remind us that our liberty is a precious gift from God.

Thank you for having Laura and me here. May God continue to bless the United States of America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:16 a.m. In his remarks, he referred to Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution G. Wayne Clough; Victoria P. Sant, president, National Gallery of Art; and Judy Woodruff, senior correspondent, Public Broadcasting Service.

## **Proclamation 8320—National Farm-City Week, 2008**

*November 19, 2008*

*By the President of the United States  
of America*

### **A Proclamation**

Farmers and ranchers display the values of hard work and good stewardship, and National Farm-City Week is an opportunity to recognize these individuals and their urban partners for contributing to our Nation’s well-being.

Farming, America’s first industry, helps feed and clothe our citizens and increasingly provides more of our energy. The agricultural sector also employs more than a million people across our Nation. Farming has been a cornerstone of our country since its founding and continues to be a vital part of our economy.

Our farmers and ranchers provide a safe, healthy, and abundant food supply, yet they

could not succeed in doing so without essential partnerships with urban communities to supply, sell, and deliver finished products across our country and around the world. These cooperative efforts help to create a prosperous future for our citizens and people everywhere.

Since 2001, my Administration has been committed to strengthening our agricultural sector, and we have worked to create an environment that will stimulate growth by opening new markets, encouraging free and fair trade, and keeping taxes low. As we celebrate this week, we recognize the vital work of farmers and ranchers, and we pay tribute to all those who strengthen the relationships between our rural and urban communities.

**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 21 through November 27, 2008, as National Farm-City Week. I encourage all Americans to join in recognizing farmers, ranchers, and all those who contribute to the strength of America's agricultural industry.

**In Witness Whereof,** I have hereunto set my hand this nineteenth day of November, in the year of our Lord two thousand eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-third.

**George W. Bush**

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., November 21, 2008]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on November 24.

### **Proclamation 8321—National Family Week, 2008**

*November 20, 2008*

*By the President of the United States  
of America*

#### **A Proclamation**

During National Family Week, we reflect on the important values and character that families instill in their children and in our society.

Families offer a stable and nurturing environment for children by providing support and comfort. A child's parents, siblings, grandparents, aunts and uncles, and other family members show them love and teach them right from wrong. Strong families set a positive example and help young people grow into compassionate and responsible citizens.

My Administration believes families strengthen our communities and help shape the character and future of our Nation. Over the years, we have demonstrated our deeply held commitment to supporting America's families by signing laws that respect the sanctity of life, lower taxes, double the child tax credit, reduce the marriage penalty, and empower parents to make choices about their children's education. In addition, the Helping America's Youth initiative, led by First Lady Laura Bush, is dedicated to raising awareness about the importance of positive youth development by keeping children connected to family, school, and community.

National Family Week is also a time to show our appreciation to our Nation's military families. We recognize their sacrifices, and we pray for their loved ones in the Armed Forces who are laying a foundation of peace for future generations. We owe a debt of gratitude to the brave men and women who have answered the call to serve our country and their families who support them.

**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 23 through November 29, 2008, as National Family Week. I invite the States, communities, and all the people of the United States to join together in observing this week with appropriate ceremonies and activities to honor our Nation's families.

**In Witness Whereof,** I have hereunto set my hand this twentieth day of November, in the year of our Lord two thousand eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-third.

**George W. Bush**