

Proclamation 7817 of September 17, 2004

Citizenship Day and Constitution Week, 2004

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Two hundred and seventeen years ago this week, delegates to the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia signed one of the most enduring documents in history: the Constitution of the United States. Our Constitution is the foundation of our liberty and has guaranteed the rights of our people through a history of tremendous change and progress.

Today, we marvel at the wisdom of the Framers who toiled through a long summer of learned and contentious debates. Their work produced a document that upholds high ideals, while answering the most practical questions of governance. The charter they crafted—with its separate branches of Government, enumerated powers, checks and balances, and later the specific protections provided by our Bill of Rights—guides our Nation and inspires others around the world.

During Constitution Week, our Nation reflects on the significance of our Constitution and gives thanks for the blessings of liberty that this document helps to secure. We honor the men and women who have supported and defended it throughout our history, at times with their lives. On Citizenship Day, we reaffirm our commitment to freedom, to ensuring that our history endures, and to instilling in America's next generation the values that make our country great.

In remembrance of the signing of the Constitution and in recognition of the Americans who strive to uphold the duties and responsibilities of citizenship, the Congress, by joint resolution of February 29, 1952 (36 U.S.C. 106, as amended), designated September 17 as "Citizenship Day,"; and by joint resolution of August 2, 1956 (36 U.S.C. 108, as amended), requested that the President proclaim the week beginning September 17 and ending September 23 of each year as "Constitution Week.";

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim September 17, 2004, as Citizenship Day, and September 17 through September 23, 2004, as Constitution Week. I encourage Federal, State, and local officials, as well as leaders of civic, social, and educational organizations, to conduct ceremonies and programs that celebrate our Constitution and reaffirm our rights and obligations as citizens of our great Nation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this seventeenth day of September, 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

Proclamation 7818 of September 20, 2004**National Farm Safety and Health Week, 2004**

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

America's farm economy is strong and growing. Farm income is strong, farm exports are at a record high, and my Administration is working to ensure that American farm products are sold all over the world. During National Farm Safety and Health Week, we reflect on the contributions of America's farm and ranch families and underscore our commitment to making our farms safer and to protecting our farm and ranch land.

The safety and health of our farm and ranch families are of critical importance. These Americans perform tasks that contain risks—they operate farm machinery, apply agricultural chemicals and fertilizers, handle large and unpredictable livestock, and work in places where dusts and toxins can contaminate the air. We must continue to raise awareness of dangers and proper safety precautions and equipment, particularly among our young people involved in agriculture. Through education and training, we can help save lives and improve the well-being of our Nation's farmers and ranchers.

Our Nation's farmers and ranchers help feed and clothe people around the world, and they are now helping provide more energy for the American people. By promoting a safer farm and ranch environment, we can strengthen our agricultural economy and build a more prosperous 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, do hereby proclaim September 19 through September 25, 2004, as National Farm Safety and Health Week. I call upon the agencies, organizations, and businesses that serve America's agricultural workers to strengthen their commitment to promoting farm safety and health programs. I also urge all Americans to honor our agricultural heritage and to recognize our farmers and ranchers for their remarkable contributions to our Nation's vitality and prosperity.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twentieth day of September, 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