

**Proclamation 7820 of September 24, 2004****Family Day, 2004**

*By the President of the United States of America*

*A Proclamation*

During this time of great change in our Nation, we remain dedicated to the fundamental American values of courage and compassion, reverence and integrity, and respect for others. On Family Day, we affirm our commitment to strengthening America's families and supporting them as they work to raise healthy and responsible children.

Strong families help young people take responsibility, understand the consequences of their actions, and recognize that the decisions they make today could affect the rest of their lives. By spending time with their children, parents prepare them to realize a bright future.

It should always be a goal of government to encourage marriage and strengthen families. My 2005 budget proposal includes more than \$290 million in funding for programs that support healthy marriages, research and demonstration projects on family formation, and initiatives to promote responsible fatherhood.

We have made significant progress over the past decade in helping our young people make the right choices. Smoking and illicit drug use have declined among youth, teen birth rates have fallen to the lowest levels ever recorded, and violent crime among teenagers has decreased dramatically. My Administration is also supporting families by encouraging character education in schools to help children develop a sense of responsibility to their communities. We are advancing abstinence-only education programs to help reduce the number of teen pregnancies and teenagers contracting sexually transmitted diseases, and we are promoting school drug testing to identify kids who need help. When parents, schools, and government work together, we can counter the negative influences in today's culture and send a positive message to our youth.

Families instill the essential values we live by. By supporting them, we make America a better and more hopeful place.

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 27, 2004, as Family Day. I call on the people of the United States to observe this day by engaging in activities that honor the relationship between parents and children and help keep our young people healthy and safe.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-fourth 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 7821 of September 25, 2004**

**Gold Star Mother's Day, 2004**

*By the President of the United States of America*

*A Proclamation*

Americans have always answered the call to serve our Nation. Many brave American men and women have made the ultimate sacrifice to defend freedom's blessings, and no one feels their loss more deeply than their mothers. On Gold Star Mother's Day, we remember these mothers who have suffered the loss of a son or daughter through service to our country. We honor their courage and perseverance and the memory of their children.

Across our Nation, these compassionate and generous women are volunteering to serve veterans, helping families of service members, supporting educational programs that promote patriotism and citizenship, and turning their grief into action. They inspire all Americans with their compassion and service. On this day, people across America join together to honor our Gold Star mothers and send our gratitude, prayers, and best wishes to them and to their families.

The Congress, by Senate Joint Resolution 115 of June 23, 1936 (49 Stat. 1895 as amended), has designated the last Sunday in September as "Gold Star Mother's Day," and has authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this day.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim Sunday, September 26, 2004, as Gold Star Mother's Day. I call upon all Government officials to display the flag of the United States over Government buildings on this solemn day. I also encourage the American people to display the flag and hold appropriate meetings in their homes, places of worship, or other suitable places as a public expression of the sympathy and respect that our Nation holds for our Gold Star Mothers.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-fifth 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 7822 of September 24, 2004**

**National Hunting and Fishing Day, 2004**

*By the President of the United States of America*

*A Proclamation*

America is a land of majestic beauty, and we take pride in our wildlife, forests, mountains, lakes, rivers, and coastlines. Outdoor recreation is an important part of our Nation's heritage. On National Hunting and Fishing Day, we celebrate the remarkable progress we have made in conserving our environment and recognize those who have worked to conserve our natural resources.