

of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-ninth.

GEORGE W. BUSH

Proclamation 7849 of November 23, 2004

Thanksgiving Day, 2004

*By the President of the United States of America
A Proclamation*

All across America, we gather this week with the people we love to give thanks to God for the blessings in our lives. We are grateful for our freedom, grateful for our families and friends, and grateful for the many gifts of America. On Thanksgiving Day, we acknowledge that all of these things, and life itself, come from the Almighty God.

Almost four centuries ago, the Pilgrims celebrated a harvest feast to thank God after suffering through a brutal winter. President George Washington proclaimed the first National Day of Thanksgiving in 1789, and President Lincoln revived the tradition during the Civil War, asking Americans to give thanks with “one heart and one voice.”; Since then, in times of war and in times of peace, Americans have gathered with family and friends and given thanks to God for our blessings.

Thanksgiving is also a time to share our blessings with those who are less fortunate. Americans this week will gather food and clothing for neighbors in need. Many young people will give part of their holiday to volunteer at homeless shelters and food pantries. On Thanksgiving, we remember that the true strength of America lies in the hearts and souls of the American people. By seeking out those who are hurting and by lending a hand, Americans touch the lives of their fellow citizens and help make our Nation and the world a better place.

This Thanksgiving, we express our gratitude to our dedicated firefighters and police officers who help keep our homeland safe. We are grateful to the homeland security and intelligence personnel who spend long hours on faithful watch. And we give thanks for the Americans in our Armed Forces who are serving around the world to secure our country and advance the cause of freedom. These brave men and women make our entire Nation proud, and we thank them and their families for their sacrifice.

On this Thanksgiving Day, we thank God for His blessings and ask Him to continue to guide and watch over 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 Thursday, November 25, 2004, as a National Day of Thanksgiving. I encourage all Americans to gather together in their homes and places of worship to reinforce the ties of family and community and to express gratitude for the many blessings we enjoy.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-third day of November, 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 7850 of December 1, 2004

World AIDS Day, 2004

*By the President of the United States of America
A Proclamation*

HIV/AIDS is the greatest health crisis of our time. Its defeat requires the cooperation of the entire global community. On World AIDS Day, people around the world unite to demonstrate our commitment to fighting HIV/AIDS and to offer prayers and support for those living with HIV/AIDS and for their families and caregivers.

America and many nations have great opportunities to improve health, expand prosperity, and extend freedom in our time. My Administration has made turning the tide against HIV/AIDS a priority. In my 2003 State of the Union Address, I was proud to announce the Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief. This plan commits \$15 billion over 5 years to fight the HIV/AIDS pandemic in over 100 countries throughout the world, focusing on 15 of the hardest-hit countries in Africa, the Caribbean, and Asia. These funds are already at work and will help prevent 7 million new infections, treat 2 million infected individuals, and care for 10 million individuals, including orphans and vulnerable children infected or affected by this disease.

This year, we also recognize the challenges HIV/AIDS poses to women. Through the Emergency Plan, the United States supports drug therapy and counseling to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV/AIDS. In addition, we are working to prevent girls from becoming infected through sexual coercion or exploitation and to increase support and services to help reduce the burden on women who are called upon to care for a sick loved one.

In order to defeat this pandemic, we also must discover new treatments and cures. America joined with other countries at the G-8 Summit in June to announce the Global HIV Vaccine Enterprise, a major commitment from the world's leading scientists to find ways to combat this devastating disease. My Administration also supports efforts to encourage testing because in the United States alone, one-quarter of those infected with HIV each year do not know that they are infected. And, because abstinence is the only sure way to avoid sexually transmitted diseases, my Administration has more than tripled funding for abstinence-only programs since taking office.

Our country and other nations around the world are working to bring new hope to those suffering with HIV/AIDS and contribute to a healthier future for people around the world.

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 December 1, 2004, as World AIDS Day. I urge the Governors of the States and