

Hurricanes can be devastatingly powerful and include storm surge, high winds, tornadoes, and flooding. To reduce the potentially deadly effects of these storms, it is imperative for people in hurricane-prone areas to prepare for each type of hurricane hazard. Taking the time to develop a family disaster plan, create a disaster supply kit, and stay aware of current weather situations can improve preparedness and help save lives.

My Administration is committed to strengthening our Nation's ability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from these types of disasters. I've asked the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to find ways to provide better assistance to those affected by catastrophe. FEMA has enhanced coordination between all levels of government during times of crisis and, along with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, is helping raise awareness about the dangers of hurricanes. In addition, the Department of Homeland Security and FEMA provide Americans with important emergency preparation checklists and valuable resources about what to do after a disaster at [ready.gov](http://ready.gov) and [fema.gov](http://fema.gov). By working together, citizens and Federal, State, local, and tribal officials can help safeguard lives and protect property.

Throughout the hurricane season, we are also grateful for the compassion, courage, and generosity of the volunteers and first responders who stand ready to help their neighbors in need. Their good hearts reflect the character of 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 May 20 through May 26, 2007, as National Hurricane Preparedness Week. I call upon government agencies, private organizations, schools, and the media to share information about hurricane preparedness. I also urge all Americans living in vulnerable coastal areas of our Nation to take appropriate measures and precautions to protect themselves against the effects of hurricanes.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this eighteenth day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand seven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-first.

GEORGE W. BUSH

**Proclamation 8147 of May 18, 2007**

**World Trade Week, 2007**

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

World trade is essential to promoting global economic growth, development, freedom, and prosperity. During World Trade Week, we underscore our commitment to free and fair trade and acknowledge the benefits of open markets for our citizens and for people around the globe.

Trade creates wealth and opportunities, and United States engagement in the global economy has contributed to rising living standards throughout our country. Businesses that participate in international trade are more productive, have higher employment growth, and pay greater wages. Advancing free trade on a level playing field helps ensure that America benefits from the international market.

My Administration is committed to reducing barriers to trade, strengthening our strategic partnerships, and promoting economic growth throughout the world. At the beginning of my Administration, America had free trade agreements with three countries. Today, we have free trade agreements in force with 14 countries, creating benefits for American businesses, workers, and consumers. These trade agreements are particularly important for small and medium-sized companies to help them identify and take full advantage of new trade opportunities.

The United States continues to work with other nations in the World Trade Organization to complete the Doha Development Round, which has the potential to lift millions of people out of poverty. I have also called upon the Congress to extend Trade Promotion Authority so we can complete the Doha Round and continue to negotiate robust trade agreements. By working to expand trade, we open new markets for American products and services and help build free economies that can raise the standard of living for families.

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 May 20 through May 26, 2007, as World Trade Week. I encourage all Americans to observe this week with events, trade shows, and educational programs that celebrate the benefits of trade to our Nation and the global economy.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this eighteenth day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand seven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-first.

GEORGE W. BUSH

**Proclamation 8148 of May 18, 2007**

**National Maritime Day, 2007**

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

America has a proud maritime history, and the United States Merchant Marine has played a vital role in helping meet our country's economic and national security needs. On National Maritime Day, we honor merchant mariners for their dedication to promoting commerce and protecting our freedom.

During times of peace, the U.S. Merchant Marine helps ensure our economic security by keeping the oceans open to trade. Ships operated by merchant mariners transport goods across our Nation's waterways and on the high seas around the world to connect American businesses and