

tity theft, prosecute those who commit fraud, and help victims. Through these and other efforts, we are helping to ensure that consumers have the tools they need to secure their personal information, monitor their financial accounts, maintain their privacy, and make responsible decisions to guard against fraud.

Consumer fraud takes advantage of the trust and integrity that characterizes our country's marketplace. By remaining vigilant and defending against fraud, Americans can protect their financial security and help our Nation's economy remain strong.

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 February 4 through February 10, 2007, as National Consumer Protection Week. I call upon Government officials, industry leaders, and consumer advocates to provide citizens with information about how they can prevent fraud and identity theft, and I encourage all citizens to be responsible consumers and take an active role in protecting their personal information.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this second day of February, 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 8106 of February 16, 2007

275th Anniversary of the Birth of George Washington

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Two hundred seventy-five years after the birth of George Washington, we honor the life and legacy of a surveyor from Virginia who became Commander of the Continental Army, a major force at the Constitutional Convention, and the first President of the United States of America.

Remembered by the Congress as “first in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen,”; George Washington dedicated his life to the success of America. During the Revolutionary War, Washington's small band of hungry soldiers faced the professional army of a great empire, and his unshakable vision for a new democracy proved a powerful inspiration to his troops. Knowing that the outcome of their struggle would determine “the destiny of unborn Millions,”; Washington led his often ragged forces beyond incredible hardships into battle and on to victory with strength, steadfastness, and a quiet confidence.

The triumphant General treasured his brief time at home, but his devotion to duty and belief in the promise of a more perfect Union lured Washington from Mount Vernon. He presided over the Constitutional Convention with wisdom, diplomacy, and humility and helped form the working model of our democracy. When the Constitution was rati-

fied, America again turned to a beloved and proven leader, electing George Washington as the first President of the United States.

As we celebrate the life of George Washington and his contributions to the American experiment, we can also take pride in our stewardship of the Republic he forged. Today, he would see in America the world's foremost champion of liberty—a Nation that stands for freedom for all, a Nation that stands with democratic reformers, and a Nation that stands up to tyranny and terror. On his 275th birthday, George Washington would see an America fulfilling the promise of her Founders, honoring the durable wisdom of our Constitution, and moving forward in the world with confidence, compassion, and strength.

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 February 22, 2007, as the 275th Anniversary of the Birth of George Washington. I encourage all Americans to join me in honoring the Father of our Country with appropriate civic and service programs and activities in remembrance of George Washington and with gratitude for all he gave for his country.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this sixteenth day of February, 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 8107 of February 26, 2007

Irish-American Heritage Month, 2007

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

The friendship between Ireland and the United States has deep roots, and Irish Americans have played an integral role in making our country a place of hope and opportunity. During Irish-American Heritage Month, we recognize the vital contributions of Irish Americans to our Nation.

Since our founding, Irish immigrants have come to America's shores in search of better lives. Today, millions of American citizens are of Irish descent, and they and their forbearers have helped shape our way of life, strengthened our economy, and contributed to the arts, and protected our Nation. Irish Americans have shown their devotion to our country by serving in our Armed Forces. America is especially grateful to these brave men and women for the sacrifices that have helped preserve the ideals of our country and made the world a safer place.

During the month of March, we reflect on our Nation's past and how Irish Americans helped create the country we live in today. America is a melting pot of cultures, and Irish-American Heritage Month is an opportunity to celebrate the accomplishments of Irish-American citizens and remind our people we are blessed to be a Nation of immigrants.