

ADA has increased participation in community life and given greater hope to millions of Americans.

Because of the ADA, individuals with disabilities are better able to develop skills for school, work, and independent living. Our Nation has more to do to further the goals of the ADA. Through the New Freedom Initiative, my Administration is building on the progress of the ADA to increase the use of technology and expand educational and employment opportunities. We are promoting the development and dissemination of assistive and universally designed technology. We have launched DisabilityInfo.gov, an online resource of programs and technology relevant to the daily lives of people with disabilities and their families, employers, service providers, and other community members. We also require electronic and information technologies used by the Federal Government to be accessible to people with disabilities. To ensure that no child with a disability is left behind, I have requested \$11.1 billion for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act in my FY 2006 budget—\$4.7 billion above the FY 2001 level. The Department of Education is seeking new and effective ways for students with disabilities to learn. My Administration is also working to educate employers on ADA requirements and further assisting persons with disabilities by implementing the “Ticket to Work” program and strengthening training and employment services at One-Stop Career Centers. Through all of these efforts, we are helping individuals with disabilities have the opportunity to live and work with greater freedom.

On the 15th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, we celebrate the progress that has been made and reaffirm our commitment to fulfilling the ADA’s mission of bringing greater hope and opportunity to our Nation’s disabled Americans.

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 July 26, 2005, as a day in celebration of the 15th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act. I call on all Americans to celebrate the many contributions individuals with disabilities have made to our country, and I urge our citizens to fulfill the promise of the ADA to give all people the opportunity to live with dignity, work productively, and achieve their dreams.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-sixth day of July, in the year of our Lord two thousand five, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirtieth.

GEORGE W. BUSH

Proclamation 7916 of August 5, 2005

40th Anniversary of the Voting Rights Act of 1965

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

In America, we believe in the freedom of every individual. This freedom includes the ability to participate in one of the most cherished

rights and fundamental responsibilities of citizenship: the right to vote. The Voting Rights Act of 1965 helped ensure that all citizens would have the opportunity to vote, regardless of race. As President Lyndon Johnson said when he signed the Act, “Millions of Americans are denied the right to vote because of their color. This law will ensure them the right to vote. The wrong is one which no American, in his heart, can justify. The right is one which no American, true to our principles, can deny.”; As we celebrate the 40th anniversary of this historic act, we reaffirm this bedrock commitment to equality and justice for all.

America’s history is a story of people working for freedom, justice, and equality. We have made great progress toward achieving these ideals. In the middle of the 20th century, the conscience of America was awakened by the struggles and the courage of those who overcame racial slurs, fire hoses, and burning crosses. Brave men and women held sit-ins at lunch counters, rode buses on Freedom Rides, and marched in our Nation’s Capital and throughout our country to demand the full promise of the Declaration of Independence. The work of these courageous Americans led to the Voting Rights Act of 1965, and we remember their heroism on this anniversary.

America is a stronger and better Nation because of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. As President Johnson said upon signing the Act, it is “a triumph for freedom as huge as any victory that has ever been won on any battlefield.”; The Act was a great step forward in the history of our Nation, and it remains essential as we continue our progress toward a society in which every person of every background can realize the American Dream.

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 August 6, 2005, as a day of celebration in honor of the 40th Anniversary of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. I call upon all Americans to observe this day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this fifth day of August, in the year of our Lord two thousand five, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirtieth.

GEORGE W. BUSH

Proclamation 7917 of August 15, 2005

National Airborne Day, 2005

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

Americans live in freedom because of the extraordinary bravery, sacrifice, and dedication to duty of the members of our Armed Forces. From the first official Army parachute jump 65 years ago, our country’s Airborne troops have played a crucial role in the defense of our Nation and our liberty. On National Airborne Day, we pay special tribute to these courageous soldiers who served with honor and integrity.