

flown at half-staff at the White House and on all public buildings and grounds, at all military posts and naval stations, and on all naval vessels of the Federal Government in the District of Columbia and throughout the United States and its Territories and possessions until sunset on the day of his interment. I also direct that the flag shall be flown at half-staff for the same period at all United States embassies, legations, consular offices, and other facilities abroad, including all military facilities and naval vessels and stations.

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

GEORGE W. BUSH

Proclamation 7882 of April 5, 2005

Pan American Day and Pan American Week, 2005

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Leaders across the Americas understand that the hope for peace in our world depends on the unity of free nations. Each year, the people of the United States observe Pan American Day and Pan American Week to honor our shared commitment to freedom, prosperity, and security. We are working with our partners in the Western Hemisphere to advance our common interests and values so that we can build a brighter future for our citizens.

The idea of regional solidarity and inter-American cooperation, first envisioned in 1826 by Simon Bolivar, became a reality in 1890 when the First International Conference of American States concluded its meetings in Washington, D.C. There, President Benjamin Harrison praised the efforts of the countries in attendance for their desire to work together as American States. Through the years, these efforts, shared values, and mutual respect have strengthened this partnership.

Across our hemisphere, social, economic, military, and political cooperation are widespread. Last year, trade officials of five Central American nations and the Dominican Republic signed the Central American-Dominican Republic Free Trade Agreement with the United States. I urge the Congress to ratify this agreement, which will eliminate tariffs and trade barriers and expand regional opportunities.

My Administration remains committed to the Inter-American Democratic Charter to advance democracy and defend freedom across our region. Our Nation's continued support of democratic institutions, constitutional processes, and basic liberties gives hope and strength to those struggling in our hemisphere and around the world to preserve the rule of law and their God-given rights.

The democratic nations of the Western Hemisphere believe in the rights and dignity of every person, and we believe that liberty is worth defending. In the spirit of Pan American cooperation, we will continue

to work to strengthen ties among our nations and further democracy, peace, and prosperity.

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 April 14, 2005, as Pan American Day and April 10 through April 16, 2005, as Pan American Week. I urge the Governors of the 50 States, the Governor of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the officials of other areas under the flag of the United States of America to honor these observances with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

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

GEORGE W. BUSH

Proclamation 7883 of April 5, 2005

National D.A.R.E. Day, 2005

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

Across America, law enforcement officers, volunteers, parents, and teachers are helping to send the right message to our Nation's youth about illegal drugs and violence through the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) Program. On National D.A.R.E. Day, we express our gratitude for the important work of these individuals and reaffirm our commitment to ensuring that every child has an opportunity for a bright and hopeful future.

For over two decades, D.A.R.E. programs have taught our Nation's young people about the dangers of drug use and encouraged them to lead productive, drug-free, and violence-free lives. Police officers and all those involved in D.A.R.E. help save lives by opening the lines of communication between law enforcement and our young people to better enable them to make the right choices. In a culture in which bad influences and temptations are all too present, these soldiers in the armies of compassion are fostering a culture of responsibility among young people.

My Administration will continue to stand with families and communities to combat the dangers of drugs and violence. In my State of the Union Address, I announced a new initiative called Helping America's Youth to help ensure a successful future for young Americans. Led by First Lady Laura Bush, this initiative is educating parents and communities on the importance of positive youth development and is supporting organizations, including faith-based and community groups, who are helping young people to overcome the risks they face. We also support random student drug testing as a prevention tool, and we are helping educate young people about the dangers of illicit drug use through the National Youth Anti-Drug Media Campaign and Drug-Free Communities Program.