

and a spirit of innovation to cultivate and sustain our forests in ways that benefit our entire society.

Today, Americans continue to be responsible stewards of national forests and grasslands. Through the commonsense management approach of my Healthy Forests Initiative, the Forest Service is working with State and local governments, tribes, and other Federal agencies to help prevent destructive wildfires, return forests to a healthier, natural condition, and maintain a full range of forest types. The Forest Service is also providing important work, education, and job training to citizens in need. This commitment to “Caring for the Land and Serving People”; contributes to our country’s success in conserving our environment and ensuring that our natural resources remain sources of pride for our citizens, our communities, and 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 February 1, 2005, as the Centennial of the Forest Service of the Department of Agriculture. I call upon the people of the United States to recognize this anniversary with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities in honor of the Forest Service’s contributions to our country.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this first day of February, 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 7868 of February 7, 2005

National African American History Month, 2005

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Throughout our Nation’s history, the contributions of African Americans have stirred our Nation’s conscience and helped shape our character. During National African American History Month, we honor the determination and commitment of generations of African Americans in pursuing the promises of America.

The theme of National African American History Month this year, “The Niagara Movement: Black Protest Reborn, 1905–2005,”; honors the grassroots movement of 1905 to 1910 that was organized to fight racial discrimination in America. Led by W.E.B. DuBois, the movement called for voting rights for African Americans, opposed school segregation, and worked to elect officials committed to fighting racial prejudice. Americans today carry on this movement as our Nation strives to live up to our founding principle that all of God’s children are created equal.

It is important to teach our children about the heroes of the civil rights movement who, with courage and dignity, forced America to confront the central defect of our founding. Every American should know about the men and women whose determination and persistent eloquence

forced people of all races to examine their hearts and revise our Nation's Constitution and laws. As we celebrate African American History Month, we remember how great the struggle for racial justice has been. And we renew our efforts to fight for equal rights for all Americans. We have made great progress, but our work is not done.

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 2005 as National African American History Month. I call upon public officials, educators, librarians, and all the people of the United States to observe this month with appropriate programs and activities that honor the history, accomplishments, and contributions of African Americans.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this seventh day of February, 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 7869 of February 7, 2005

National Consumer Protection Week, 2005

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

This year's National Consumer Protection Week focuses on the impact and problems caused by identity theft and on the steps Government is taking to safeguard personal information. Today, many Americans reveal personal information when making purchases, borrowing money, or opening a bank or credit card account. This information makes it convenient to conduct routine transactions, but consumers must take precautions to protect their names, addresses, phone numbers, Social Security numbers, and account numbers against fraud and theft.

As one of the highest impact financial crimes in our Nation, identity theft can undermine the basic trust on which our economy depends. Millions of Americans have had their identity stolen, costing them and our country's businesses billions of dollars. Identity theft can shake consumers' confidence, destroy a person's financial reputation, and damage lifelong efforts to build and maintain a good credit rating.

We are acting to protect citizens from these crimes and the grief and problems they cause. During the last 2 years, I have signed the Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act of 2003, which makes it easier for consumers to detect and protect themselves from fraud, and the Identity Theft Penalty Enhancement Act, which strengthens the penalties for identity theft. The U.S. Postal Inspection Service, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the United States Secret Service are working with State and local officials to stop the criminal networks responsible for much of the identity theft in America. The Federal Trade Commission also trains local law enforcement in detecting and investigating identity theft, and they have set up the Identity Theft Data Clearinghouse, which tracks complaints across the country and provides these