

Proclamation 7819 of September 21, 2004

**National Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve
Week, 2004**

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

Throughout our history, the members of the National Guard and Reserve have served our country with honor. Our Nation depends on the dedication of these citizen-soldiers, and our Guardsmen and Reservists rely on the support of their civilian employers to allow them to fulfill their service obligations. During National Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Week, we honor the sacrifice of these brave men and women, and we express our gratitude for the commitment of their employers.

As we fight terror and advance freedom, members of the National Guard and Reserve are making vital contributions around the world as fully integrated components of our Nation's Armed Forces. At home, they are called on to protect our communities, preserve order, and provide assistance in times of natural disaster, balancing the demands of their families, civilian careers, and military commitments. These Guardsmen and Reservists are indispensable to our Nation's efforts to promote democracy, peace, and freedom around the world, and we salute their selfless service.

Employers also play a critical role in our Nation's defense, demonstrating their patriotism by supporting the training and mobilization of these brave individuals. Across America, business owners, school personnel, hospital administrators, and many others put our country's safety and security first when they provide time off, pay, health care benefits, and job security to their Guard and Reserve employees. These sacrifices help strengthen our country and allow our men and women in uniform to focus on the missions at hand. The generosity and public spirit of these employers have earned them the appreciation 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 September 26 through October 2, 2004, as National Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Week. I encourage all Americans to join me in expressing our thanks to the civilian employers and the members of our National Guard and Reserve for their patriotism and sacrifices on behalf of our Nation. I also call upon State and local officials, private organizations, businesses, and all military commanders to observe this week with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

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

GEORGE W. BUSH

Proclamation 7820 of September 24, 2004**Family Day, 2004**

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

During this time of great change in our Nation, we remain dedicated to the fundamental American values of courage and compassion, reverence and integrity, and respect for others. On Family Day, we affirm our commitment to strengthening America's families and supporting them as they work to raise healthy and responsible children.

Strong families help young people take responsibility, understand the consequences of their actions, and recognize that the decisions they make today could affect the rest of their lives. By spending time with their children, parents prepare them to realize a bright future.

It should always be a goal of government to encourage marriage and strengthen families. My 2005 budget proposal includes more than \$290 million in funding for programs that support healthy marriages, research and demonstration projects on family formation, and initiatives to promote responsible fatherhood.

We have made significant progress over the past decade in helping our young people make the right choices. Smoking and illicit drug use have declined among youth, teen birth rates have fallen to the lowest levels ever recorded, and violent crime among teenagers has decreased dramatically. My Administration is also supporting families by encouraging character education in schools to help children develop a sense of responsibility to their communities. We are advancing abstinence-only education programs to help reduce the number of teen pregnancies and teenagers contracting sexually transmitted diseases, and we are promoting school drug testing to identify kids who need help. When parents, schools, and government work together, we can counter the negative influences in today's culture and send a positive message to our youth.

Families instill the essential values we live by. By supporting them, we make America a better and more hopeful place.

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 September 27, 2004, as Family Day. I call on the people of the United States to observe this day by engaging in activities that honor the relationship between parents and children and help keep our young people healthy and safe.

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

GEORGE W. BUSH