

flected throughout our history, from the Lewis and Clark Expedition to the Moon landing and our many scientific and technological advances.

Columbus Day is also a celebration of the many contributions that Italian Americans have made to our Nation. Every aspect of our culture, whether it be art or music, law or politics, reflects the influence of Italian Americans. On this day we also remain thankful for the strong ties between the United States and Italy and pay tribute to the courageous and selfless Italian forces who are helping to advance freedom alongside American and coalition troops in Iraq and Afghanistan.

In commemoration of Columbus' journey, the Congress, by joint resolution of April 30, 1934, and modified in 1968 (36 U.S.C. 107), as amended, has requested that the President proclaim the second Monday of October of each year as "Columbus Day.";

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim October 11, 2004, as Columbus Day. I call upon the people of the United States to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities. I also direct that the flag of the United States be displayed on all public buildings on the appointed day in honor of Christopher Columbus.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this eleventh day of October, 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 7830 of October 11, 2004

General Pulaski Memorial Day, 2004

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

The story of Revolutionary War hero Brigadier General Casimir Pulaski is one of bravery and sacrifice that helped to secure America's blessings of liberty. We remember General Pulaski for his skill in battle, his commitment to freedom, and his willingness to give his life for America's independence.

Born in Poland in 1745, Casimir Pulaski first gained distinction as a military hero while fighting to defend his native Poland. His reputation as a bold warrior and his dedication to the cause of liberty became known throughout Europe.

Pulaski met with Benjamin Franklin in Paris in 1777 and agreed to join the Americans in their fight for freedom. He quickly proved to be a gifted military leader and was commissioned as a Brigadier General. He became known as "the Father of the American Cavalry,"; recruiting and training a special corps of American, Polish, Irish, French, and German troops who fought with great skill and success. During the siege of Savannah in 1779, General Pulaski was mortally wounded, leaving a legacy of heroism that continues to inspire people around the world.

On General Pulaski Memorial Day, we honor a noble patriot committed to the cause of freedom, and we recognize the countless contributions Polish Americans have made to our Nation and our culture. We also celebrate the strong friendship between the United States and Poland, remembering our shared history and common values and honoring the sacrifices of Polish troops who have served bravely alongside American and coalition forces in Iraq and Afghanistan.

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 October 11, 2004, as General Pulaski Memorial Day. I encourage all Americans to commemorate this occasion with appropriate programs and activities paying tribute to Casimir Pulaski and honoring all those who defend freedom.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this eleventh day of October, 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 7831 of October 12, 2004

National School Lunch Week, 2004

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

The National School Lunch Program has provided healthy, affordable lunches to our Nation's children for almost 60 years. The program now serves more than 28 million children each day, many of whom might not otherwise eat nutritious lunches. During National School Lunch Week, we recognize the program's contributions to the health, well-being, and education of our Nation's youth.

In addition to providing the good nutrition that helps young people succeed in school, healthy school lunches and after-school snacks can help alleviate childhood obesity and lower children's risk of developing health problems. The National School Lunch Program also shares information about healthy eating habits with children, families, and communities; works to provide our children with the best possible school meals; and offers technical training and assistance to school food-service staff. To support this program and other important child nutrition programs, earlier this year I signed into law the Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004. This bill expands access to programs for children of Armed Services personnel, promotes healthy food choices, and makes it easier for parents to enroll their eligible children.

The National School Lunch Program has accomplished a great deal in providing children with nutritious meals, and we must continue working to ensure that every child is well-nourished, healthy, and active. While children who participate in the school lunch program consume more fruits, vegetables, milk, and protein than students who obtain lunch elsewhere, over 60 percent of our Nation's young people still eat