

Proclamation 7943 of October 7, 2005

Leif Erikson Day, 2005

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

More than 1,000 years ago, Leif Erikson left the coast of Greenland and began a journey to explore new lands. He made that voyage in the spirit of discovery and became one of the first Europeans known to have reached North America, inspiring stories of bountiful lands and charting a way for future explorers to follow. On Leif Erikson Day, we celebrate the accomplishments of Leif Erikson and his crew, and we honor the many contributions of Nordic Americans to our Nation.

The journey of Leif Erikson reflects the spirit that has made America strong, as the desire to explore and understand is part of our national character. Today, we continue to push the frontiers of knowledge in many areas and especially with our exploration of space, drawn to the heavens as we were once drawn to the open seas.

Generations of Nordic Americans have come to our country with a sense of determination and optimism, and they have helped build a stronger and more vibrant Nation. On Leif Erikson Day, we celebrate Nordic Americans, as well as the ties between America and the Nordic nations. We are joined by a common respect for liberty, human rights, and the dignity of every person. Working together, we are spreading freedom and hope, and we are helping to build a better and more compassionate world.

To honor Leif Erikson, son of Iceland and grandson of Norway, and to celebrate our citizens of Nordic-American heritage, the Congress, by joint resolution (Public Law 88–566) approved on September 2, 1964, has authorized and requested the President to proclaim October 9 of each year as “Leif Erikson Day.”

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim October 9, 2005, as Leif Erikson Day. I call upon all Americans to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs to honor our rich Nordic-American heritage.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this seventh day of October, 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 7944 of October 7, 2005

Columbus Day, 2005

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

Christopher Columbus’ journey across uncharted waters in 1492 changed the course of history. Overcoming many obstacles, the explorer from Genoa

pursued a dream that carried him to the “New World” and helped launch an age of exploration, leading to the founding of new countries across the Americas. Through the years, the desire to discover and understand has been a part of our Nation’s character, and Columbus’ spirit has inspired generations of explorers and inventors. On Columbus Day, we honor Christopher Columbus and the vision that carried him on his historic voyage.

Since 1934, when President Roosevelt first proclaimed the national holiday, our Nation has observed Columbus Day to mark the moment when the Old World met the New. As we recognize Columbus’ legacy, we also celebrate the contributions of Italian Americans to our Nation’s growth and well-being. Americans of Italian descent are musicians and athletes, doctors and lawyers, teachers and first responders. They are serving bravely in our Armed Forces. From our country’s first days, the sons and daughters of Italy have brought honor to themselves and enriched our national life.

More than 500 years after Columbus’ journey, we are honored that the Italian Republic is among our closest friends and strongest allies. On Columbus Day, we celebrate this strong bond between America and Italy.

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 10, 2005, 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 seventh day of October, 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 7945 of October 7, 2005

General Pulaski Memorial Day, 2005

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

America’s freedom has been achieved with great sacrifice. In the Revolutionary War, General Casimir Pulaski gave his life for the cause of freedom. Today, we honor his selfless contributions and heroic service.

Born in Poland, Casimir Pulaski fought Russian oppression in his homeland. In 1776, Benjamin Franklin met Pulaski in France and successfully recruited him to join the American fight for liberty. In America, Pulaski distinguished himself at the Battle of Brandywine and was commissioned as a Brigadier General by General George Washington. After raising his own legion, a special infantry and cavalry division that included many foreign-