

Proc. 7957

Title 3—The President

sovereignty and the right to self-determination. By working together, government to government, on important education, economic, and energy initiatives, we can strengthen America and build a future of hope and promise for all Native Americans. This month, we pay tribute to the American Indians and Alaska Natives who continue to shape our Nation. I encourage all citizens to learn more about the rich heritage of Native Americans.

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 November 2005 as National American Indian Heritage Month. I call upon all Americans to commemorate this month with appropriate programs and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this second day of November, 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 7957 of November 2, 2005

National Family Caregivers Month, 2005

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

Each November, as Americans reflect on our many blessings, we observe National Family Caregivers Month and give thanks for the selfless service of family caregivers on behalf of their loved ones in need. The tireless devotion of these Americans brings comfort and peace of mind to our Nation's elderly and to those who are chronically ill or disabled.

Family caregivers play an important role in communities across the United States. They provide most of the homecare services in our country and work hard to meet the emotional and physical needs of the family members and friends for whom they care. Through the National Family Caregiver Support Program, my Administration continues to encourage States and local agencies on aging to partner with faith-based, community, and tribal organizations. These partnerships can offer family caregivers the important information, counseling, training, respite care, and support services they need.

This November, enrollment begins under the new Medicare prescription drug benefit, which offers more affordable access to prescription drugs, better health care choices, and extra help to low-income seniors and beneficiaries with disabilities. This new coverage will help family caregivers, who often inform or make medical decisions for those they care for, by ensuring that their loved ones receive the best health care available.

Every day, family caregivers sacrifice their own needs to offer their loved ones the opportunity to live with dignity and independence in familiar surroundings. Their love, selflessness, and devotion inspire us all and demonstrate the compassionate spirit of America.

Proclamations

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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 November 2005 as National Family Caregivers Month. I encourage all Americans to honor and support those who serve as caregivers to their family members, friends, and neighbors in need.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this second day of November, 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 7958 of November 3, 2005

National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month, 2005

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

National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month is an opportunity to recognize the strength of family members, doctors, nurses, volunteers, and others who provide care for those living with this devastating disease. During this month, we also reaffirm our commitment to victims of this disease. We hope to enhance the quality of life for Alzheimer's patients and improve prevention and treatment.

Approximately 4.5 million Americans are affected by Alzheimer's disease. The disease gradually destroys parts of the brain that control memory, learning, communication, and reason. As it progresses, individuals may also experience changes in behavior and personality, leading to severely impaired cognitive abilities and the need for full-time care and assistance. Age remains the greatest risk factor—the National Institute on Aging estimates that the percentage of people who develop Alzheimer's disease doubles for each 5-year age group beyond 65. Alzheimer's affects nearly half of those over 85.

While there is no known cure or certain treatment, researchers are learning more about what causes this tragic disease and how to control its symptoms. My Administration remains committed to funding medical research programs to help prevent, treat, and find a cure for Alzheimer's disease. The National Institute on Aging has begun new initiatives to improve development and testing of medicines that may slow progression of the disease. The Department of Veterans Affairs is supporting research through its Geriatric Research, Education and Clinical Centers, and the Administration on Aging is working to improve home and community-based services for Alzheimer's patients. By working together, we can learn more about treatment options and bring greater comfort to those afflicted with this disease.

Our Nation is grateful for the scientists, researchers, and health care professionals who are dedicated to treating Alzheimer's patients and finding a cure. We are also grateful for the hard work and compassionate spirit of family members and caregivers. Their efforts reflect the character and spirit of America.