

Proclamation 7997 of April 5, 2006**Education and Sharing Day, U.S.A., 2006**

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

A quality education is the cornerstone of a hopeful tomorrow for all our children. Education and Sharing Day highlights our strong support for our young people as they pursue lives of learning, prepare to become responsible leaders, and work to reach their full potential.

On Education and Sharing Day, we remember the efforts of Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson, the Lubavitcher Rebbe, who promoted the importance of education and ethical teachings to every student's future. He sought to improve lives and communities through a vast network of education and outreach centers and social service programs around the world. We continue to be inspired by the Rebbe's good works and all those who dedicate their time, talents, and energy to helping our next generation grow into caring, responsible adults. Through devotion to faith, family, education, and community, we can continue building a better and more compassionate society.

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 the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim April 9, 2006, as Education and Sharing Day, U.S.A. I call upon government officials, educators, volunteers, and all the people of the United States to reach out to young people and work to create a better, brighter, and more hopeful future for all.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this fifth day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirtieth.

GEORGE W. BUSH

Proclamation 7998 of April 5, 2006**National Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day, 2006**

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

In every generation, America's Armed Forces have answered the call to duty with dedication and valor. On National Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day, we pay tribute to the brave patriots of the United States military who endured captivity because of war. These heroes sacrificed their personal liberty to secure a future of freedom for all Americans.

While held as prisoners of war, American POWs have reflected the best of our country, acting with resourcefulness, bravery, and strength. Former POWs, such as Corporal Tibor "Ted" Rubin, USA, continue to inspire new generations to acts of courage and compassion. Liberated by U.S. forces

from a Nazi concentration camp, Rubin enlisted in the Army after immigrating to the United States. He was captured and held as a POW during the Korean War even before he became an American citizen. His incredible bravery and service to his fellow POWs saved many lives and has left a legacy of hope and honor, and for his heroism, I had the great privilege to present him our Nation's highest military award, the Medal of Honor.

The sacrifices of those taken as prisoners of war have helped bring security to American citizens and freedom to the world. With determination and courage, America's former POWs, their fallen and missing comrades, and their families have demonstrated the true spirit of our Nation, and they will never be forgotten.

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 April 9, 2006, as National Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day. I call upon the people of the United States to join me in remembering and honoring the sacrifices of all American prisoners of war. I call upon Federal, State, and local government officials and private organizations to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this fifth day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirtieth.

GEORGE W. BUSH

Proclamation 7999 of April 7, 2006

Pan American Day and Pan American Week, 2006

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

During Pan American Day and Pan American Week, we honor the commitment to liberty and common values we share with our Pan American neighbors.

The love of freedom has deep roots in the Pan American community. Not long after the United States won independence from Britain, patriots throughout the Americas were inspired to take their own stand. Today, there are more than 30 democratic countries in the region, and through the Organization of American States, leaders in the Western Hemisphere have an opportunity to discuss shared goals, promote prosperity, and strengthen democratic governance and institutions.

One of the surest ways to make opportunity real for all our citizens is through free and fair trade. In August 2005, I signed legislation to implement the Dominican Republic-Central America-United States Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA-DR). Our investment and trade through the CAFTA-DR will help build a better life for our citizens, and by reducing trade barriers, we can make our region more competitive in the global economy. Strong economic ties with democracies in our hemisphere foster stability and security and help lay the foundation for peace for generations to come.