

citizens. Since arriving in 1654, Jewish Americans have achieved great success, strengthened our country, and helped shape our way of life. Through their deep commitment to faith, family, and community, Jewish Americans remind us of a basic belief that guided the founding of this Nation: that there is an Almighty who watches over the affairs of men and values every life. The Jewish people have enriched our culture and contributed to a more compassionate and hopeful America.

Jewish American Heritage Month is also an opportunity to remember and thank the many Jewish Americans who defend our ideals as members of the United States Armed Forces. These courageous men and women risk their lives to protect their fellow citizens and to advance the cause of freedom. By helping to bring the promise of liberty to millions around the world, they lay the foundation of peace for generations to come.

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 May 2006 as Jewish American Heritage Month. I call upon all Americans to observe this month with appropriate programs and activities that honor the significant contributions Jewish Americans have made to our Nation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twentieth 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 8006 of April 20, 2006

National Crime Victims' Rights Week, 2006

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

During National Crime Victims' Rights Week, we underscore our commitment to safeguarding the rights of the victims of crime and their families, and we honor those who bring them hope and comfort.

Behind each crime victim there is a story of trauma, a story of suffering, and a story of lost security. This year's theme, "Victims' Rights: Strength in Unity," emphasizes the importance of joining together to support these individuals and to promote victims' rights and services. With the help of victim service providers, faith-based and community groups, justice professionals, and volunteers, we can work to improve the lives of crime victims across our country.

Violent crime rates have fallen to their lowest levels since the 1970s, and we must continue our progress in the fight against crime and remain dedicated to protecting the rights of crime victims. The Office for Victims of Crime at the Department of Justice (DOJ) provides funding to States for victim assistance programs and supports training on victims' rights for criminal justice professionals. To increase access to comprehensive support and services for victims of domestic violence, the DOJ awarded more than \$20 million to support the creation of 15 Family Justice Centers across the

country. Several of these centers have opened and are making a difference in victims' lives. To further ensure basic rights for all victims, we must also ratify a Crime Victims' Rights Amendment to the Constitution.

To learn more about victims' rights and how to make a difference, visit crimevictims.gov. All Americans share a responsibility to help victims of crime, and our Nation will continue to work together to achieve justice for victims and build a more hopeful society for all.

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 23 through April 29, 2006, as National Crime Victims' Rights Week. I encourage all Americans to promote awareness of victims' rights and advance this important cause.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twentieth 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 8007 of April 26, 2006

National Charter Schools Week, 2006

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

Education is the gateway to a brighter future for our children and our Nation. During National Charter Schools Week, we celebrate charter schools' commitment to academic achievement, accountability, and innovation. We recognize the vital role charter schools play in fostering an America where children have the knowledge and skills they need to grow, succeed, and achieve their dreams.

As a publicly funded alternative to traditional public schools, charter schools have expanded our understanding of public education by embracing the spirit of discovery and providing innovative avenues for success. Almost 15 years after the founding of the first charter school, more than 3,600 charter schools in 40 states and the District of Columbia are teaching more than one million students. These institutions reflect our belief in the promise of America's youth and help fulfill our moral obligation to make sure that every child has a quality education.

This year marks the fourth anniversary of the signing of the No Child Left Behind Act, which is helping schools close the achievement gap among America's youth. Using the same principles that guide No Child Left Behind, we are achieving educational excellence through charter schools by providing greater flexibility with Federal dollars and curriculum control at the local level. We are also providing parents with more information about school performance and school options and insisting on results through assessment and accountability.

In the aftermath of the devastating hurricanes that struck our Nation's Gulf Coast last year, charter schools are playing a major role in welcoming back