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MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 7, 1983

FOR: FRED F. FIELDING

FROM: JOHN G. ROBERTS 

SUBJECT: Draft Proclamation:
National Christmas Seal Month

Dodie Livingston has asked for comments by 3:00 p.m. today on the above-referenced draft proclamation, which proclaims this month as National Christmas Seal Month. The proclamation, authorized and requested by S.J. Res. 188, has been approved by OMB. It reviews the impact of the various lung diseases and the work of the American Lung Association -- the Christmas Seal people -- in combatting the diseases. I have no legal objections. The draft is over-long, but Dodie Livingston plans to edit it.

Attachment

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 7, 1983

FOR: DODIE LIVINGSTON
SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT
DIRECTOR, SPECIAL PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGES

FROM: FRED F. FIELDING Orig. signed by FFF
COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Draft Proclamation:
National Christmas Seal Month

Counsel's Office has reviewed the above-referenced draft proclamation and finds no objection to it from a legal perspective. We agree that the draft is too lengthy and should be shortened.

FFF:JGR:ph 11/7/83
cc: FFFielding
JGRoberts✓
Subject
Chron.

WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

O - OUTGOING

H - INTERNAL

I - INCOMING

Date Correspondence Received (YY/MM/DD) 1 1

Name of Correspondent: DODIE LIVINGSTON

MI Mail Report

User Codes: (A) _____ (B) _____ (C) _____

Subject: Draft Proclamation: National Christmas Seal Month

ROUTE TO:

ACTION

DISPOSITION

Office/Agency (Staff Name)	Action Code	Tracking Date YY/MM/DD	Type of Response Code	Completion Date YY/MM/DD
<u>WHOLL</u>	<u>ORIGINATOR</u>	<u>83/11/07</u>		<u>1 1</u>
<u>WAT18</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>83/11/07</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>83/11/07</u> <u>3.00pm</u>
		<u>1 1</u>		<u>1 1</u>
		<u>1 1</u>		<u>1 1</u>
		<u>1 1</u>		<u>1 1</u>

ACTION CODES:

- A - Appropriate Action
- C - Comment/Recommendation
- D - Draft Response
- F - Furnish Fact Sheet to be used as Enclosure
- I - Info Copy Only/No Action Necessary
- R - Direct Reply w/Copy
- S - For Signature
- X - Interim Reply

DISPOSITION CODES:

- A - Answered
- B - Non-Special Referral
- C - Completed
- S - Suspended

FOR OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE:

- Type of Response = Initials of Signer
- Code = "A"
- Completion Date = Date of Outgoing

Comments: _____

Keep this worksheet attached to the original incoming letter.
Send all routing updates to Central Reference (Room 75, OEOB).
Always return completed correspondence record to Central Files.
Refer questions about the correspondence tracking system to Central Reference, ext. 2590.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

#167877

November 7, 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR: KEN DUBERSTEIN
[REDACTED]
CRAIG FULLER
JACK SVAHN
LEE VERSTANDIG
FAITH WHITTLESEY

FROM: DODIE LIVINGSTON

SUBJECT: DRAFT PROCLAMATION/
National Christmas
Seal Month

Attached for your review is the draft proclamation designating the month of November 1983 as National National Christmas Seal Month.

The proposed proclamation was drafted by Dale Dirks, Vice President for Government Relations, Health and Medicine Counsel of Washington, 347-7878. The draft was not changed in my office in the interests of time, but I will try to tighten it up as it is rather long.

[REDACTED]

and, if it is easier, just phone your responses to my office, x2941. We have been asked to get this turned around in time for the President to sign it prior to his departure tomorrow morning. My office is 480 EOB.

As always, many thanks.



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

GENERAL COUNSEL

November 7, 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT

FROM: MICHAEL J. HOROWITZ
COUNSEL TO THE DIRECTOR *MJH*

SUBJECT: NATIONAL CHRISTMAS SEAL MONTH

Pursuant to Senate Joint Resolution 188, which passed both Houses of the Congress, the President is authorized and requested to issue a proclamation designating the month of November, 1983 as "National Christmas Seal Month."

The proposed proclamation was prepared by the American Lung Association and has been reviewed in this office for form and legality. It has been retyped to reflect minor editorial changes and as to format.

The proposed proclamation has the approval of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

Enclosure

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

Chronic diseases of the lung afflict well over 17 million Americans, cause more than 200,000 deaths annually, and cost the Nation more than \$48 billion in lost wages, production and medical expenses.

Chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases have been among the fastest rising causes of death. Almost seven million Americans, including over two million children, suffer from asthma. Two and one-half million Americans have emphysema, while almost eight million suffer from chronic bronchitis. Furthermore, it is expected that lung cancer will surpass breast cancer as the leading cause of cancer deaths among American women during this decade.

Leading the fight in the voluntary sector to prevent illness, disability, and death from lung disease is the American Lung Association--the Christmas Seal people--a nonprofit public health organization supported by individual contributions to Christmas Seals and other donations.

The American Lung Association was the Nation's first national voluntary public health organization. It was founded in 1904 as the National Tuberculosis Association, to combat tuberculosis when this lung disease was known to nearly every American family and caused one in seven deaths. Since 1907, Christmas Seals have been used to raise funds through private contributions to help educate Americans about this disease. In its early years, the National Tuberculosis Association pioneered school programs aimed at

motivating young people to establish healthier living patterns. That tradition remains strong, as the American Lung Association continues to give high priority to its health education activities in the schools.

In addition, the American Lung Association, through its community lung Associations, helps educate the public, patients and their families about lung diseases; sponsors community action programs for good lung health; underwrites medical research; supports education for physicians and other health care workers; and wages vigorous campaigns against cigarette smoking and air pollution. The primary source of funding for more than 70 years has been Christmas Seals. This year, Christmas Seals will be in 60 million homes.

The American Lung Association cooperates with a variety of Federal agencies to bring about a decrease in the serious problem of lung disease, a mission to which its volunteers and staff are committed. The American Lung Association works with the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute, a major component of the National Institutes of Health, to support research, training and demonstration programs relevant to the lung. It also works with the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, the Tuberculosis Program of the Centers for Disease Control, the Office of Smoking and Health, and the Office of Health Promotion.

In recognition of the American Lung Association's continuing efforts to eliminate all chronic diseases of the lung, the Congress has, by Senate Joint Resolution 188, authorized and requested the President to designate the month of November, 1983, as "National Christmas Seal Month."

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RONALD REAGAN, President of the United States of America, do hereby designate November, 1983 as National Christmas Seal Month, and call upon all Government agencies and the people of the United States to observe this month with appropriate activities and by supporting the Christmas Seal program.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this
day of November, in the year of our Lord
nineteen hundred and eighty-three, and of the Independence
of the United States of America the two hundred and eighth.

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

November 8, 1983

NATIONAL CHRISTMAS SEAL MONTH, 1983

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

Chronic diseases of the lung afflict well over 17 million Americans, cause more than 200,000 deaths annually, and cost the Nation more than \$29.4 billion in lost wages and medical expenses plus untold dollars in lost productivity.

Chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases have been among the fastest rising causes of death. Almost seven million Americans, including over two million children, suffer from asthma. Two and one-half million Americans have emphysema, while almost eight million suffer from chronic bronchitis. Furthermore, it is expected that deaths from lung cancer will surpass breast cancer as the leading cause of cancer deaths among American women during this decade.

Leading the fight in the voluntary sector to prevent illness, disability, and death from lung disease is the American Lung Association -- the Christmas Seal people -- a nonprofit public health organization supported by individual contributions to Christmas Seals and other donations.

The Nation's first national voluntary public health organization, the Association was founded in 1904 to combat tuberculosis. Since 1907, Christmas Seals have been used to raise funds through private contributions to help educate Americans about this disease. In its early years, the National Tuberculosis Association pioneered school programs aimed at motivating young people to establish healthful living patterns. That tradition remains strong, as the American Lung Association continues to give high priority to its health education activities in the schools.

In addition, the American Lung Association, through its community lung Associations, helps educate the public, patients and their families about lung diseases; sponsors community action programs for good lung health; underwrites medical research; supports education for physicians and other health care workers; and wages vigorous campaigns against cigarette smoking and air pollution. The primary source of funding for more than 70 years has been Christmas Seals. This year, Christmas Seals will be in 60 million homes.

In recognition of the American Lung Association's continuing efforts to eliminate all chronic diseases of the lung, the Congress, by Senate Joint Resolution 188, has designated the month of November 1983 as "National Christmas Seal Month" and has requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of that month.

more

(OVER)

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RONALD REAGAN, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim November 1983 as National Christmas Seal Month, and I call upon all Government agencies and the people of the United States to observe this month with appropriate activities and by supporting the Christmas Seal program.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this eighth day of November, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and eighty-three, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and eighth.

RONALD REAGAN

#

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 28, 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR FRED F. FIELDING

FROM: JOHN G. ROBERTS *JGR*

SUBJECT: Draft Proclamation: Bill of Rights
Day/Human Rights Day and Week, 1983

Dodie Livingston asked for comments on the above-referenced draft proclamation by close of business December 2. This proclamation kills three birds with one stone, commemorating Bill of Rights Day (December 15), Human Rights Day (December 10), and Human Rights Week (December 10-16). The proclamation, a traditional one without statutory basis, was drafted by the State Department and approved by OMB. It reviews the hopes that underlay the adoption by the United Nations of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948, and notes how those hopes have been frustrated in the Soviet Union, Poland, and Afghanistan. Specific mention is made of the award of the Nobel Peace Prize to Lech Walesa. I have reviewed the draft proclamation and have no objection to it.

Attachment

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 28, 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR DODIE LIVINGSTON
SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT
DIRECTOR, SPECIAL PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGES

FROM: FRED F. FIELDING Orig. signed by FFF
COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Draft Proclamation: Bill of Rights
Day/Human Rights Day and Week, 1983

Counsel's Office has reviewed the above-referenced draft proclamation, and finds no objection to it from a legal perspective.

FFF:JGR:aea 11/28/83

cc: FFFielding/JGRoberts/Subj/Chron

WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

OUTGOING

INTERNAL

INCOMING

Date Correspondence Received (YY/MM/DD) 1 1 1

Name of Correspondent: Dodie Livingston

MI Mail Report

User Codes: (A) _____ (B) _____ (C) _____

Subject: Draft Proclamation Bill of Rights Day / Human Rights Week, 1983

ROUTE TO:

ACTION

DISPOSITION

Office/Agency (Staff Name)	Action Code	Tracking Date YY/MM/DD	Type of Response Code	Completion Date YY/MM/DD
<u>CUJOLL</u>	<u>ORIGINATOR</u>	<u>83/11/23</u>		<u>1 1</u>
	Referral Note:			
<u>CUAT 18</u>	<u>X</u>	<u>83/11/23</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>83/12/02</u>
	Referral Note:			
		<u>1 1</u>		<u>1 1</u>
	Referral Note:			
		<u>1 1</u>		<u>1 1</u>
	Referral Note:			
		<u>1 1</u>		<u>1 1</u>
	Referral Note:			

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Document No. 167872

November 23, 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR:

KEN DUBERSTEIN


CRAIG FULLER
JACK SVAHN
LEE VERSTANDIG
FAITH WHITTLESEY

FROM:

DODIE LIVINGSTON

SUBJECT:

DRAFT PROCLAMATION: Bill of Rights
Day/Human Rights Week, 1983

Attached for your review is the proposed proclamation which would proclaim December 10, 1983, as Human Rights Day and December 15, 1983, as Bill of Rights Day. The proclamation would call for the observance of the week beginning December 10, 1983, as Human Rights Week.

The proposed proclamation was drafted by the Department of State and was edited in my office to reflect style and readability.


As Always, many thanks.



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

GENERAL COUNSEL

October 17, 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT

FROM: MICHAEL J. HOROWITZ
COUNSEL TO THE DIRECTOR *MJ*

SUBJECT: BILL OF RIGHTS DAY - HUMAN RIGHTS
DAY AND WEEK, 1983

Enclosed is a proposed proclamation which would proclaim December 10, 1983 (the anniversary of the adoption by the United Nations of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights) as Human Rights Day and December 15, 1983 (the anniversary of the adoption of our Bill of Rights), as Bill of Rights Day; and would call for the observance of the week beginning December 10, 1983, as Human Rights Week.

There is no statutory basis for issuance of the proposed proclamation; however, it is a traditional observance supported by a resolution of the United Nations.

The proposed proclamation was submitted by the Department of State and has been retyped in this office to reflect minor editorial changes and as to format.

The proposed proclamation has the approval of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

Enclosure

BILL OF RIGHTS DAY
HUMAN RIGHTS DAY AND WEEK, 1983

- - - - -

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
A PROCLAMATION

On December 15, 1791, our Founding Fathers rejoiced in the ratification of the first 10 amendments ^{to} ~~of~~ the Constitution of the United States - a Bill of Rights which has helped guarantee all Americans the liberty we so cherish.

One hundred and fifty seven years later, on December 10, 1948, the United Nations adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, an effort aimed at securing basic human rights for the peoples of all nations.

Americans have long honored the gift of liberty. ^{So} ~~For~~ it is with glad hearts and thankful minds that on Bill of Rights Day we recognize the special benefits of freedom bequeathed to posterity by the Founding Fathers. They had a high regard for the liberty of all humanity as reflected by Thomas Jefferson when he wrote in 1787, "A bill of rights is what the people are entitled to against every government on earth." In this century alone thousands of Americans have laid down their lives on distant battlefields in Europe, Asia, and Africa in defense of the basic human rights.

When the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1948, Americans hoped that the Jeffersonian vision was about to be realized at last. The Universal Declaration, it was believed, would embody the consensus of the international community in favor of human rights and individual liberty. And the United Nations, it was further thought, would serve as the instrument through which the observance of human rights by governments would be enforced by the international community.

Thirty-five years after the adoption of the Universal Declaration, it is clear that these hopes have been fulfilled only in part. Nevertheless, the Universal Declaration remains an international standard against which the human rights practices of all governments can be measured. Its principles have become the basis of a number of binding international covenants and conventions. At the United Nations, it has served to strengthen the arguments of those governments which are genuinely interested in promoting human rights.

Still, the fact remains that even as we celebrate Bill of Rights Day and Human Rights Day, human rights are frequently violated in many nations. In the Soviet Union, for example, brave men and women seeking to promote respect for human rights are often declared mentally ill by their government~~s~~ and incarcerated in psychiatric institutions. In Poland, the free trade-union movement Solidarity has been brutally suppressed by the regime. And in Afghanistan, toxic weapons, the use of which is outlawed by international conventions, are being utilized by Soviet occupation forces against a people fighting for their freedom and independence.

As Americans recall these and other human rights violations, we should reflect on both the similarities and the differences between the Bill of Rights and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Both great human rights documents were adopted in the aftermath of a bitter war. Both envision a society where rulers and ruled are bound by the laws of the land~~s~~ and where government rests on the consent of the governed, is limited in its powers, and ha~~s~~^d as its principal purpose the protection of individual liberty.

Yet while the Bill of Rights was adopted by a Nation in which free institutions already flourished, many of the countries which adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights lacked free

institutions. Since human rights are the product of such institutions as a free press, free elections, free trade unions, and an independent judiciary, it is not surprising that formal adherence to the Universal Declaration by governments which suppress these institutions has resulted in no real human rights gains.

By posing as champions of human rights, many governments hope to disguise their own human rights abuse. It was with special pleasure that I noted the recognition offered by the Nobel Peace Prize to Lech Walesa for his real efforts on behalf of human rights in a country where the government speaks only of the illusion of human rights.

Human rights can only be secured when government empowers its people, rather than itself, through the operation of free institutions. Because our Founding Fathers understood this, we are blessed with a system of government which protects our human rights. Today, let us rededicate ourselves to respect these rights at home, and to strive to make the words of the Universal Declaration a living reality for all mankind.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RONALD REAGAN, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim December 10, 1983 as Human Rights Day and December 15, 1983, as Bill of Rights Day, and call upon all Americans to observe the week beginning December 10, 1983 as Human Rights Week. During this period, let each of us give special thought to the blessings we enjoy as a free people and renew our efforts to making the promise of our Bill Rights a living reality for all Americans and, whenever possible, for all mankind.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this day of _____, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and eighty-three, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and eighth.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 28, 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR FRED F. FIELDING

FROM: JOHN G. ROBERTS *JGR*

SUBJECT: Draft Proclamation -- Carrier Alert Week

Dodie Livingston requested comments by close of business November 30 on the above-referenced draft proclamation. The proclamation, authorized and requested by S.J. Res. 141, was drafted by the Postal Service and has been approved by OMB. It describes the Carrier Alert Program, under which postal carriers who observe accumulations of mail for elderly or disabled participants alert a designated social service agency, and the agency checks to ensure the well-being of the participant.

I have reviewed the draft proclamation, and have no objection to it.

Attachment

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 28, 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR DODIE LIVINGSTON
SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT
DIRECTOR, SPECIAL PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGES

FROM: FRED F. FIELDING *Orig. signed by FFF*
COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Draft Proclamation -- Carrier Alert Week

Counsel's Office has reviewed the above-referenced draft proclamation, and finds no objection to it from a legal perspective.

FFF:JGR:aea 11/28/83
cc: FFFielding/JGRoberts/Subj/Chron

WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

- OUTGOING
 - INTERNAL
 - INCOMING
- Date Correspondence Received (YY/MM/DD) 1 1

Name of Correspondent: Bodie Livingston

MI Mail Report User Codes: (A) _____ (B) _____ (C) _____

Subject: Draft Proclamation - Carrier Alert Week

ROUTE TO:

ACTION

DISPOSITION

Office/Agency (Staff Name)	Action Code	Tracking Date YY/MM/DD	Type of Response	Code	Completion Date YY/MM/DD
<u>OWOLL</u>	ORIGINATOR	<u>83/11/23</u>			<u>1 1</u>
<u>OWAT 18</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>83/11/23</u>		<u>S</u>	<u>83/11/20</u>

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- D - Draft Response
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FOR OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE:

Type of Response Code: _____ Initials of Signer: _____
 Completion Date: _____ Date of Outgoing: _____

Comments: _____

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 Send all routing updates to Central Reference (Room 75, DEOB).
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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

#167884

November 23, 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR: KEN DUBERSTEIN
[REDACTED]
CRAIG FULLER
JACK SVAHN
LEE VERSTANDIG
FAITH WHITTLESEY

FROM: DODIE LIVINGSTON ^D

SUBJECT: DRAFT PROCLAMATION/
Carrier Alert Week

Attached for your review is the draft proclamation designating the the week of December 4, 1983, as Carrier Alert Week.

The proposed proclamation was drafted by W. Allen Sanders, Associate General Counsel, U.S.P.S., 245-4636. Very minor changes were made in my office.

[REDACTED]

As always, many thanks.



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

GENERAL COUNSEL

November 22, 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT
FROM: MICHAEL J. HOROWITZ
COUNSEL TO THE DIRECTOR *MJH*
SUBJECT: CARRIER ALERT WEEK

Pursuant to Senate Joint Resolution 141, the President is authorized and requested to issue a proclamation designating the week beginning December 4, 1983, as "Carrier Alert Week."

The proposed proclamation, which was submitted by the United States Postal Service, has been retyped in this office to reflect minor editorial changes and as to format.

The proposed proclamation has the approval of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

Enclosure

CARRIER ALERT WEEK

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

A major problem faced by our Nation's elderly and homebound is isolation. For many, friends and spouses have died, and families have moved away. When no one is left to check in on these individuals on a regular basis, illness or injury may go undetected until more ~~more~~ serious consequences -- even death -- may result.

The United States Postal Service and the National Association of Letter Carriers are doing something to alleviate this problem. In growing numbers of towns and cities all across America, they are involved in a program called "Carrier Alert" in which mail carriers monitor the mailboxes of participating residents for unusual accumulations of mail which may signal distress. When such an accumulation occurs, the Postal Service notifies a local sponsoring social service agency, which investigates and provides any necessary assistance.

Because mail carriers are in a unique position to be able to spot ~~these kinds~~ ^{this kind} of trouble quickly, the "Carrier Alert" program provides an effective and valuable service to the community. Participation in the program is entirely voluntary and costs nothing to postal customers. Since the inception of the "Carrier Alert" program in 1982, numerous press accounts around the country have documented instances in which the program has saved the lives or eased the sufferings of the elderly or ~~handicapped~~ ^{disabled people} who would have been left to languish alone in their pain but for a carrier's concern.

To encourage the American people to become more aware of the "Carrier Alert" program, ~~and~~ to participate more broadly in it, and to recognize the efforts of the United States Postal Service and the National Association of Letter Carriers in providing this public-spirited assistance, the Congress, by Senate Joint Resolution 141, has authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation designating the week beginning December 4, 1983, as "Carrier Alert Week."

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RONALD REAGAN, President of the United States of America, do hereby designate the week beginning December 4, 1983 as "Carrier Alert Week." I call upon the American people to observe that week with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this
day of _____, in the year of our Lord
nineteen hundred and eighty-three, and of the Independence
of the United States of America the two hundred and eighth.

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

November 28, 1983

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
AT SIGNING CEREMONY

FOR P [REDACTED]

The East Room

11:55 A.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: The Vice President and I are very happy to welcome all of you here to the White House. Just a few minutes ago, I had the pleasure of meeting the men and women who are sharing the platform with us this morning. And this fine group has recently been named the Outstanding Handicapped Federal Employees of the Year. And we're proud that they're part of the federal government's team.

I also want to thank those members of Congress who are here today, some of whom returned from their districts because of the importance of this ceremony.

All of you in this room know that courage, patience and hard work go a long way, and no one knows it better than my Press Secretary, Jim Brady. Jim has inspired people everywhere and continues to do so. And, Jim, we're delighted that you could take part in today's ceremony. (Applause.)

In a few minutes, I'll sign a proclamation designating 1983 through 1992* the National Decade of Disabled Persons. Proclamations can summon good people to action and light the path of hope. And this proclamation, we think, will do both.

The 1981 International Year of Disabled Persons and the 1982 National Year of Disabled Persons stimulated new activity to improve the lives of our disabled Americans. Consciousness was raised, new partnerships formed, barriers reduced and opportunities increased. Our own efforts in the White House, for example, have helped generate a number of private projects involving transportation, elementary school tutoring, eye diagnosis and surgery.

MORE

*1992

But we can't rest on past success. The task before us is to maintain our momentum and to do more.

Today I'm establishing a clear national goal. Let us increase the economic independence of every disabled American and let us begin today. (Applause.)

The disabled want what all of us want. The opportunity to contribute to our communities, to use our creativity, and to go as far as our God-given talents will take us. We see remarkable achievements in medicine, technology, education, rehabilitation, and in preventive medicine. Voluntary efforts by the private sector help in a thousand ways. America is a caring society. But too often, federal programs discourage full participation by society. Outmoded attitudes and practices that foster dependence are still with us. They are unjust, unwanted, and non-productive. Paternalism is the wrong answer.

The maze of federal programs complicates matters even more. Thirty-two federal agencies fund handicapped research. There are at least forty-two separate federal programs specifically targeted toward the handicapped population with an annual budget in excess of 36 billion dollars. More than a hundred other programs provide handicapped services and support. Now, many good things are being done and federal programs help in countless ways. But the patchwork quilt of existing policies and programs can be as much of a hindrance as a help.

Programs overlap, they work at cross purposes, and worst of all, they don't always point toward independence and jobs. So we have a lot of work to do and this work will be done.

Since last April, a White House working group on handicapped policy has been looking at ways to better translate our goals of economic independence into an agenda for action. And that agenda is now underway. The Administration's review of the regulations implementing Public Law 94142, The Education Of All Handicapped children's Act, has been completed. The regulations are fine the way they are. No changes will be made and the program will be protected in its present form. (Applause.)

Now, today, I'm also announcing three new initiatives.

MORE

We believe that each will result in far better coordination and consistency among federal programs.

The Department of Health and Human Services will direct a program to strengthen private sector job opportunities. This initiative will feature a new job cataloging service and a national campaign to coordinate and stimulate employment possibilities for the severely disabled.

Help is also needed to assist in the transition from special education to community integration and job placement. The Departments of Education and Health and Human Services have established a program to assist special education students during this transition.

Finally we are putting together a national information and referral system. The handicapped, their families and physicians need to be able to cut through the maze of public and private services and gain timely access to information and programs. This new network, managed by the private sector, will provide this badly needed service.

Now I know these programs are only a beginning, but we believe equal opportunity, equal access and greater economic independence must be more than slogans. Whenever government puts welfare and charity before the opportunity for jobs it misses the mark. By returning to our traditional values of self-reliance, human dignity and independence, we can find the solution together. We can help replace chaos with order in federal programs, and we can promote opportunity and offer the promise of sharing the joys and responsibilities of community life.

I believe we can make this dream come true. You may face limitations, but not one of you here today lacks the courage, the will or the heart to do what others say cannot be done.

There is a young lady with us today who has demonstrated that so well. Jennifer Boatman has spinal bifida, a serious malformation of the spine. Well, Jennifer's handicap didn't stop her from saving the life of a five year old boy. When Jennifer saw young Joshua Mikesell tumbling through a white water stretch of the North Umpqua River in southwestern Oregon she didn't hesitate one second. She jumped into the swift mountain stream, swam to the boy and pulled him to the river bank. Joshua's father called it a miracle.

It is also the story of the courage and the capability of America's disabled. And for all of us it is the ultimate expression of love.

MORE

"Greater love hath no man than to lay down his life for a friend."

You know, someone has said that a hero is no braver than any other person. He or she is just braver five minutes longer. (Laughter.) Well, Jennifer, that's you and it makes us all proud and thankful. Your courage, your compassion and your commitment to America's disabled opened the way to a life of quality for all people.

Let us rededicate ourselves to the tasks ahead. Let the spirit of the National Decade of Disabled Persons capture our imagination. In partnership between the public and private sector, among national, state and local organizations and between the disabled and the abled we can win the battle for dignity, equality and increased economic opportunity for all Americans.

And now I shall go sign the Proclamation and God bless all of you. Thank all of you. (Applause.)

END

12:05 P.M. EST

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

EMBARGOED FOR RELEASE AT THE
CONCLUSION OF THE SIGNING CEREMONY

November 28, 1983

NATIONAL DECADE OF DISABLED PERSONS

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BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

During the 1981 International Year and the 1982 National Year of Disabled Persons, we learned about the many accomplishments of disabled persons, both young and old. We also gained vast new insights into the significant impact that access to education, rehabilitation, and employment have on their lives.

The progress we have made is a tribute to the courage and determination of our disabled people, to innovative research and development both in technology and training techniques to assist the disabled, and to those -- whether in the private or public sectors -- who have given so generously of their time and energies to help enrich the lives of disabled persons.

We must encourage the provision of rehabilitation and other comprehensive services oriented toward independence within the context of family and community. For only through opportunities to use the full range of their potential will our disabled citizens attain the independence and dignity that are their due.

In furtherance of the initiatives encouraged by observance of the International Year of Disabled Persons, the United Nations General Assembly has proclaimed the years 1983 through 1992 as the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons. The Congress of the United States, by House Concurrent Resolution 39, has requested the President to take all steps within his authority to implement, within the United States, the objectives of the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons as proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly on December 3, 1982.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RONALD REAGAN, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim the years 1983 through 1992 as the National Decade of Disabled Persons. I call upon all Americans in both the private and public sectors to join our continuing efforts to assist disabled people and to continue the progress made over the past two years.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-eighth day of November, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and eighty-three, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and eighth.

RONALD REAGAN

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