

injustice from our land and to foster brotherhood, the more we can truly sing, "from every mountainside, let freedom ring."

The Congress, by House Joint Resolution 140, has designated August 12, 1988, as "National Civil Rights Day" and authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this event.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RONALD REAGAN, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim August 12, 1988, as National Civil Rights Day. I call upon the people of the United States to observe this day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities, including a pause at noon for a moment of silence in tribute to those who have given their lives to secure civil rights for all Americans.

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

RONALD REAGAN

Proclamation 5847 of August 19, 1988

National Senior Citizens Day, 1988

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Throughout our history, older people have achieved much for our families, our communities, and our country. That remains true today, and gives us ample reason this year to reserve a special day in honor of the senior citizens who mean so much to our land.

With improved health care and more years of productivity, older citizens are reinforcing their historical roles as leaders and as links with our patrimony and sense of purpose as individuals and as a Nation. Many older people are embarking on second careers, giving younger Americans a fine example of responsibility, resourcefulness, competence, and determination. And more than 4.5 million senior citizens are serving as volunteers in various programs and projects that benefit every sector of society. Wherever the need exists, older people are making their presence felt—for their own good and that of others.

For all they have achieved throughout life and for all they continue to accomplish, we owe older citizens our thanks and a heartfelt salute. We can best demonstrate our gratitude and esteem by making sure that our communities are good places in which to mature and grow older—places in which older people can participate to the fullest and can find the encouragement, acceptance, assistance, and services they need to continue to lead lives of independence and dignity.

The Congress, by House Joint Resolution 138, has designated August 21, 1988, as "National Senior Citizens Day" and authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this event.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RONALD REAGAN, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim August 21, 1988, as National

Senior Citizens Day. I call upon the people of the United States to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

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

RONALD REAGAN

Proclamation 5848 of August 22, 1988

Neurofibromatosis Awareness Month, 1989

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Neurofibromatosis is a potentially debilitating genetic disorder that causes tumors to develop in nervous system tissues. It affects one in 3,700 Americans. There are two known types of neurofibromatosis. The great majority of patients have NF-1, characterized by six or more dark patches on the skin and by tumors on peripheral nerves. The tumors can be severely disfiguring and painful and can also result in bone deformations and visual impairment. In the less common NF-2, tumors occur within the central nervous system, usually damaging nerves crucial to hearing and balance.

Individuals with neurofibromatosis, their families, and the health professionals who help them can all benefit from new guidelines for the diagnosis and management of this condition developed last year in a consensus conference at the National Institutes of Health. At the conference, scientists studying the genetics of neurofibromatosis presented particularly encouraging findings: They have determined that the gene defect that causes NF-1 lies on chromosome 17, and the defect for NF-2 on chromosome 22. These discoveries, medical experts agree, should soon lead to the development of diagnostic tests capable of definitively detecting neurofibromatosis gene carriers. As more is learned about the genetic defects in neurofibromatosis, scientists will be better able to design treatment strategies to assist those afflicted.

Private voluntary health agencies, chiefly the National Neurofibromatosis Foundation, are partners with the National Institute of Neurological and Communicative Disorders and Stroke in the fight against this tragic disorder. Countless families have been sustained and encouraged by support groups established by these agencies in most large American cities. These agencies also play an essential role in informing the health care professions and the general public about neurofibromatosis, about the needs of patients and families, and about the positive actions we can all undertake to ease their burdens.

To enhance public awareness of neurofibromatosis, the Congress, by House Joint Resolution 417, has designated May 1989 as "Neurofibromatosis Awareness Month" and authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of that occasion.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RONALD REAGAN, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim May 1989 as Neurofibromatosis