

**The original documents are located in Box 23, folder “Space Week Proclamation” of the Loen and Leppert Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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Charlie --

[July 1975?]

Despite all the material attached to the contrary -- Gilbert Moore of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics -- wants us to make every effort to see that S. Con. Res. 47 and H. Con. Res. 15 are passed and the P. approve a proclamation for every year, naming Space Week for July 16 thru July 24.

I tried to tell him that Rep. Schroeder had held it in the Subcomte on Census and Population (chairwoman) and written to P. re "commemorative legislation" and her desire to reduce it.

Mr. Gilbert Moore knew all about that but wanted the W.H. and particularly the P. to turn this around and have the proc. issued. Wants to talk to you about it.

Neta

FORD



has been done

MEMORANDUM  
OF CALL

1971

Proclamation

# 4067

July 20 -

"National Moon Walk Day"

issued in response  
to S.J. Res. 101

declared July 20, 1971  
as above.

PL-92-55

TIME

DATE

RECEIVED BY

STANDARD FORM 63  
REVISED AUGUST 1967  
GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6

*Mr. Keenan*



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

JUL 29 1975

Honorable Patricia Schroeder  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Madam Chairwoman:

This replies to your letter of June 30, 1975, to the President, concerning commemorative proclamations.

It has been a long-established policy to issue Presidential commemorative proclamations in response to joint congressional resolutions. From time to time, there have been individual exceptions to this policy, all decided on an ad hoc basis. As a result, there has evolved a general exception to the basic policy - the issuance of commemorative proclamations rooted in tradition; such as Pan American Day (April 14) and Red Cross Month (March).

There are now 57 different events which have been designated for many years on an annual basis; the periods set aside include days, weeks, and months. Thirteen of these events have been designated on a one-time basis by proclamation as a permanent observance; such as, Steelmark Month, pursuant to 36 U.S.C. 169e.

As you noted, the number of requests for such proclamations has proliferated at a dramatic rate. This has effected a similar explosion in the number of commemorative proclamations actually issued. The following figures are demonstrative:



	<u>Proclamations Actually Issued</u>	<u>Average Per Year</u>
6 year period '43 thru '48	116	19
5 year period '54 thru '58	156	31
5 year period '66 thru '70	295	59
4 year period '71 thru '74	283	71
	(1971     70)	
	(1972     73)	
	(1973     71)	
	(1974     69)	

(so far in 1975 - 30 have been issued)

This situation led to stricter adherence to the basic policy. As a result, we have approved in 1975 only two new one-time commemorative proclamations - Earth Day and National Historic Preservation Week - both supported by joint congressional resolutions. In addition, we have disapproved several proclamations which have been issued in recent years; e.g., National Coin Week and World Environment Day.

Requests for commemorative proclamations have not been arbitrarily or summarily disapproved. Each one has been considered. If not supported by a joint resolution or tradition, however, they have been vigorously appraised in light of the criteria that the proposed event have a truly national appeal and be appropriate for commemoration by all the people of the United States.

In those cases where an observance has special merit (most are generally worthy), it is evaluated for conflict with an existing observance for the proposed period or a similar event already being observed. World Environment Day was disapproved because Earth Day had already been proclaimed, although a Presidential statement was issued which recognized the importance of environmental

efforts throughout the world and our own environmental efforts, as well as the Earth Day proclamation. National Cancer Day was disapproved since the month of April is already designated, in accordance with a joint congressional resolution, as Cancer Control Month. A request for a Bicentennial Day of Prayer was united with the annual Prayer Day proclamation. Consideration is being given to approval of the theme of Adult Education Week as part of the annual proclamation for American Education Week.

To some extent, there is no way to avoid an ad hoc determination. From your own efforts to develop a fixed set of criteria to govern these commemorative requests, I am sure that you appreciate the difficulty of drafting such criteria. However, in view of the Committee's action we are trying to develop a realistic set of rules.

In general terms, the criteria in H.R. 5125 are appropriate and used as guidelines. Additionally developed criteria preclude multiple designations of the same or similar events, or multiple designations during the same period. An overriding requirement is that the event be of such national significance that it is appropriate for the President to call upon all the people of the United States to observe it, with some expectation that the event will, in fact, be observed nationwide.

Our role in making recommendations to the President is different from the legislative function of your subcommittee; however, it seems that we both have recognized that steps must be taken to reverse the trend toward more and more proclamations. As we develop our own criteria, we applaud the action taken by your subcommittee.

Although we do continue to consider requests for commemorative events, it is inevitable that few will be approved. The nature of some requests and the finite calendar will continue to take its toll. In this regard, it may be appropriate for your subcommittee to review those observances provided by law (36 U.S.C., Chapter 9) and repeal those that do not meet the criteria of H.R. 5125,

or which duplicate other observances; and, to change the dates for those multiple events which are designated for the same period.

I trust that you find this response reassuring.

With kind regards,

Sincerely,

(Signed) James T. Lynn

James T. Lynn  
Director

- cc:
- DO Records
- Director's chron
- Director
- Deputy Director
- Mr. Kranowitz ~~(2)~~
- Mr. Frey
- General Counsel
- Mr. Kienlen (GC)

- Mr. Buchen, White House
- Mr. Loen, White House
- Mr. Cavanaugh, White House

DO:GC:RAKienlen:mjr:7/25/75



TOCR

RECEIVED

July 3, 1975

JUL 9 2 25 PM '75

OFFICE OF  
MANAGEMENT & BUDGET

TOP PRIORITY

Dear Mrs. Schroeder:

This will acknowledge receipt and thank you for your June 30 letter to the President outlining the various factors involved in Congressional jurisdiction over, and handling of, "compassionate legislation," and recommending that these requests be processed directly by the Office of Management and Budget.

Please be assured that your letter will be called to the attention of the President and the appropriate Presidential advisers at the earliest opportunity. I am certain your recommendations will be fully studied.

With kind regards,

Sincerely,

Vernon C. Loan  
Deputy Assistant  
to the President

The Honorable Patricia Schroeder  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

cc: w/incoming to James Lynn, OMB, for appropriate handling  
cc: w/incoming to Philip Buchen, for your information

VCL:VO:ki

CONGRESSIONAL MAIL <span style="float: right;">219</span>	
TO: <i>Mr. Nichols</i>	
Prepare reply for: <i>LYNN</i>	
Log No: <b>0028</b>	Due Date: <b>JUL 18 1975</b>
Copies to: Congressional Relations	



SEVENTY-FOURTH CONGRESS

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# U.S. House of Representatives

SUBCOMMITTEE ON CENSUS AND POPULATION

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON POST OFFICE AND CIVIL SERVICE

601 HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING ANNEX

Washington, D.C. 20515

JOHN H. ROUSSELOT, CALIF.  
ANDREW W. HINSHAW, CALIF.

EX OFFICIO:  
DAVID N. HENDERSON, N.C.  
EDWARD J. DERWINSKI, ILL.

June 30, 1975

ME

Honorable Gerald R. Ford  
President of the United States  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

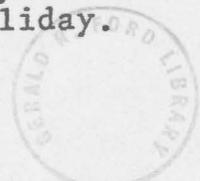
Dear Mr. President:

This year, jurisdiction over "commemorative legislation" was transferred from the Committee on the Judiciary to the Committee on Post Office and Civil Service and its Subcommittee on Census and Population, which I chair.

Traditionally, these bills to set aside a period of time for special recognition of some life, event, organization, or practice of national importance were processed through the unanimous consent calendar. In recent years, however, use of the consent calendar has been made impossible due to the objection of certain Members of the House, and those bills which are placed on the suspension calendar usually take approximately 30-40 minutes of floor time for consideration.

The result in the last Congress was that only a handful out of more than 600 commemorative bills were considered. Because the legislative process in the House had become so inappropriate -- and arbitrary -- in handling this type of legislation, on April 17, 1975, the Committee on Post Office and Civil Service adopted a policy to deal with this matter.

Essentially, the Committee decided to return Congressional involvement with commemorative legislation back to its original purpose of setting aside a day for national recognition without declaring that day to be a national holiday. For example, Armistice Day was one of the first days so designated by Congress before it became a legal holiday.



Honorable Gerald R. Ford  
President of the United States  
June 30, 1975  
Page 2

The Committee policy states, in part, "Only proposals concerning individuals, groups, and events with national appeal and significance, which shall be demonstrated by their potential to receive serious consideration as a national holiday and by written endorsement of a majority of the Members of the House, shall be considered."

While the Committee believes this policy responsibly deals with a situation in the House which was deteriorating rapidly, the fact that few, if any, bills will meet our new criteria does not mean that certain proposals should not be given national recognition. For instance, a proposal to proclaim March as "Youth Art Month" has generated a great deal of support, and, in my opinion, deserves recognition. But, for the aforementioned reasons, Congress is no longer the appropriate forum to process these proposals, regardless of their merit.

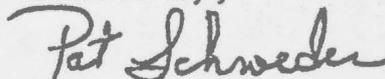
What is called for now, in my opinion, is a recognition by the Executive Branch of the changed circumstances, and in response, a decision by the Office of Management and Budget to process directly requests for proclamations.

On occasion, OMB has recommended a presidential proclamation without prior Congressional approval, but it has generally "screened" requests by requiring a Congressional declaration. Because of the new House procedures which will preclude such declaration, I sincerely hope that you will direct the appropriate people that, in view of the changed circumstances, proposals for commemorative time periods should now be given active consideration by OMB.

I hope that this new policy can be instituted in the near future so that deserving proposals will not be adversely affected.

With kind regards,

Sincerely,



PATRICIA SCHROEDER  
Chairwoman



cc: William M. Nichols, OMB

94TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 5125

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 18, 1975

Ms. SCHROEDER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Post Office and Civil Service

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## A BILL

To require the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to make recommendations to the President with respect to national observances, and for other purposes.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       That (a) any person may submit a proposal to the Director  
4       of the Office of Management and Budget requesting that a  
5       particular period be established as a national observance.

6       (b) The Director of the Office of Management and  
7       Budget shall—

8               (1) review each proposal submitted pursuant to sub-  
9       section (a) to determine, based on the criteria estab-  
10      lished by or under section 3, whether such proposal



1 merits recommendation to the President as a national  
2 observance;

3 (2) from time to time, submit a listing of recom-  
4 mended proposals to the President and request that the  
5 President issue an appropriate proclamation designating  
6 the period requested in each such proposal as a national  
7 observance; and

8 (3) inform each person who submits a proposal  
9 pursuant to subsection (a) of the final disposition of such  
10 proposal.

11 SEC. 2. The Director of the Office of Management and  
12 Budget shall review all existing national observances which  
13 have been designated by the Congress or proclaimed by the  
14 President and submit a listing to both Houses of the Con-  
15 gress of the national observances which fail to meet criteria  
16 established by or under section 3, together with such recom-  
17 mendations for legislative or other action as the Director may  
18 consider appropriate.

19 SEC. 3. (a) In determining which of the proposals sub-  
20 mitted pursuant to paragraph (1) of the first section of this  
21 Act shall be recommended to the President, the following  
22 criteria shall be used by the Director of the Office of Manage-  
23 ment and Budget as the basic standard of eligibility:

24 (1) Only proposals concerning individuals, groups,



1 and events of national appeal and significance shall be  
2 considered.

3 (2) The following types of proposals shall not be  
4 considered:

5 (A) any proposal concerning a commercial en-  
6 terprise, specific product, or fraternal, political, or  
7 sectarian organization;

8 (B) any proposal concerning a particular city,  
9 town, county, school or institution of higher learn-  
10 ing; and

11 (C) any proposal concerning a living person.

12 (b) The Director of the Office of Management and  
13 Budget may prescribe by regulation such additional criteria as  
14 are considered necessary to carry out the purposes of this Act.

15 SEC. 4. A listing of the recommended proposals sub-  
16 mitted to the President under paragraph (2) of the first  
17 section of this Act shall be printed in the Congressional  
18 Record and in the Federal Register.

19 SEC. 5. The Director of the Office of Management and  
20 Budget may prescribe by regulation such additional criteria as  
21 sary to carry out the purposes of this Act.

