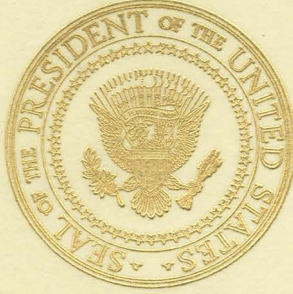


The original documents are located in Box 36, folder “White Cane Safety Day” of the William J. Barody Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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White Cane Safety Day, 1974

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

More than a million Americans have severe visual disabilities. A few years ago most of these individuals would have been condemned to a life of dependence upon others. But a simple device—a White Cane—has given most of them mobility and with it, independence.

If those blessed with the gift of good eyesight do their part, those who are denied this blessing may still enjoy the independence they must have to work and support themselves and, not infrequently, their families. They can enjoy the independence they need to be fulltime partners in the life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness which more fortunate Americans enjoy.

We should be constantly aware of the significance of the White Cane and, without hesitation, extend every courtesy to those who carry it. In this way we can respect the privacy and independence of our visually disabled while, at the same time, assuring that we do nothing to hinder their ability to shape and pursue a productive and fulfilling life.

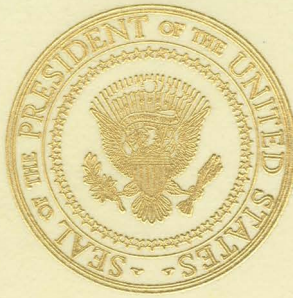
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NOW, THEREFORE, I, RICHARD NIXON, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim October 15, 1974, as White Cane Safety Day.

I urge all Americans to mark this occasion by giving greater consideration to the special needs of the visually handicapped, and particularly by learning to heed the White Cane in order that our visually handicapped may use our streets and public facilities with maximum safety.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this ninth day of July, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred seventy-four, and of the Independence of the United States of America the one hundred ninety-ninth.

The signature of Richard Nixon is written in cursive at the bottom of the page.



White Cane Safety Day, 1974

By the President of the United States of America

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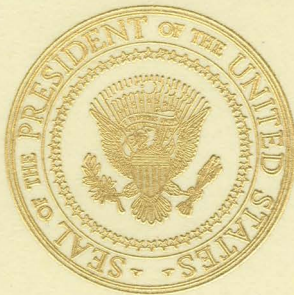
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White Cane Safety Day, 1975

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

The white cane is universally recognized as one of the simplest yet most effective aids to the independent mobility of the blind. Today, as blind persons are participating in the mainstream of active life, the white cane has also become a symbol of their capacity to contribute meaningfully to the progress of all Americans.

One of the most gratifying developments in our efforts to achieve better lives for all Americans is the advancement of social and economic opportunities for blind citizens. This growth is represented by the widening array of jobs capably handled by the blind. Well trained blind persons are working in nearly every trade, profession, and calling. Modern techniques of mobility and the increased use of the white cane have made this possible.

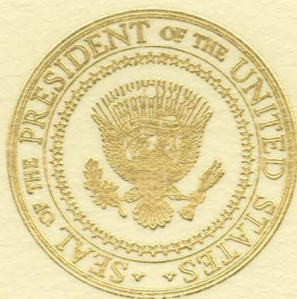
Still, as useful as the white cane is for helping the visually disabled person achieve self-reliance, it has its limitations. It cannot, for instance, warn of an approaching vehicle. Motorists and bicyclists should, therefore, be particularly alert for pedestrians using white canes and respond to their presence with an extra measure of care and caution.

In order that Americans may be made more fully aware of the significance of the white cane, and of the need for motorists and bicyclists to exercise caution and courtesy when approaching visually handicapped persons, the Congress, by joint resolution (78 Stat. 1003; 36 U.S.C. 169d), has authorized the President to proclaim October 15 of each year as White Cane Safety Day.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GERALD R. FORD, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim Wednesday, October 15, 1975, as White Cane Safety Day. I call upon all Americans to exercise understanding and awareness of the special needs of our fellow citizens who are visually handicapped in order that they may enjoy the greatest possible measure of personal independence and safety as they use our streets and public facilities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-third day of June, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred seventy-five, and of the Independence of the United States of America the one hundred ninety-ninth.

Gerald R. Ford



White Cane Safety Day, 1975

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

The white cane is universally recognized as one of the simplest yet most effective aids to the independent mobility of the blind. Today, as blind persons are participating in the mainstream of active life, the white cane has also become a symbol of their capacity to contribute meaningfully to the progress of all Americans.

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White Cane Safety Day, 1976

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

One of the basic rights which we as Americans cherish is the freedom of each citizen to move, without barriers, about this great land. For visually handicapped Americans, the white cane is both an instrument and symbol of independence, permitting a degree of mobility not otherwise possible.

A pathfinder, not a crutch, the white cane serves blind people as a sensitive transmitter of information. It signals the presence of obstacles and of changes in contour. It reassures by indicating the familiar as well as warning of the unexpected. To its user, the white cane provides the confidence to venture forth, to experience the world, and to participate fully in life.

The white cane also serves to alert others. It reminds those of us who can see to exercise simple courtesy and common sense in approaching a blind person. By providing assistance when it is desired, or often just by yielding the right of way, we can help assure safe passage and safeguard the right of visually handicapped persons to enjoy unhindered mobility.

To make all Americans more fully aware of the significance and importance of the white cane and the need for extra alertness and consideration when approaching its user, the Congress, by a joint resolution approved October 6, 1964 (78 Stat. 1003; 36 U.S.C. 169d), has authorized the President to proclaim October 15 of each year as White Cane Safety Day.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GERALD R. FORD, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim October 15, 1976, as White Cane Safety Day.

On this occasion, I urge all sighted Americans to increase their knowledge and understanding of the needs and rights of visually handicapped Americans. In particular, each of us should be prepared to heed the message of the white cane and grant its users the extra measure of care necessary to their physical safety, self-confidence, and peace of mind.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this first day of September in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred seventy-six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and first.

Gerald R. Ford



White Cane Safety Day, 1976

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

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Gerald R. Ford



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20201

Maquerite
pl

Office of Human Development
Rehabilitation Services Administration

Mr. William J. Baroody, Jr.
Assistant to the President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500



Dear Mr. Baroody:

Thank you for your letter of June 27, and the enclosed copy of the President's Proclamation for White Cane Safety Day. Such acts of leadership in the field of rehabilitation and safety by the President are very important for disabled Americans and the nation's rehabilitation program.

We plan to have the Proclamation reproduced in our bi-monthly professional journal, *American Rehabilitation*, in the September issue. We will be sending an information memorandum regarding the numbers and needs of our Nation's blind citizens, and the need to eliminate architectural barriers as an adjunct to White Cane Safety to all State Blind Agencies announcing the Proclamation, and requesting local follow-through at the community level.

Again, on behalf of all blind, and otherwise disabled, Americans, please convey our most sincere appreciation to the President for his thoughtfulness and support.

Very sincerely,

Dr. Andrew S. Adams
Commissioner of Rehabilitation
Services

June 25, 1975

Dear

President Ford recently signed a Proclamation designating October 15th as White Cane Safety Day, 1975. In his Proclamation the President states, "Today, as blind persons are participating in the mainstream of active life, the white cane has . . . become a symbol of their capacity to contribute meaningfully to the progress of all Americans."

The President asked that I send you the enclosed duplicate of his Proclamation as a small remembrance of this occasion. It comes to you with his very best wishes.

Sincerely,

William J. Baroody, Jr.
Assistant to the President



Enclosure

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 20, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR:

MARGUERITE McCauliffe

The President has signed a Proclamation entitled:

"White Cane Safety Day, 1975"

(Wednesday, October 15, 1975)

*sent
6/20/75*

Robert D. Linder
Robert D. Linder *z.*



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Date 6/9

TO: Marguerite

FROM: DR. THEODORE C. MARRS
hm gnr

For your signature _____

For your coordination ✓

For your information _____

Per our conversation _____

Other: The White House Safety Day
Proclamation should be
mailed to the attached list
with an appropriate letter,
Thanks —

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND

Boh 747-4010

SUITE 212, DUPONT CIRCLE BUILDING
1346 CONNECTICUT AVENUE, N. W.
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20036

PHONE
(202) 223-3559
(202) 223-3559

795-2974

June 5, 1975

Dr. Theodore C. Marrs
Special Assistant to the President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Ted:

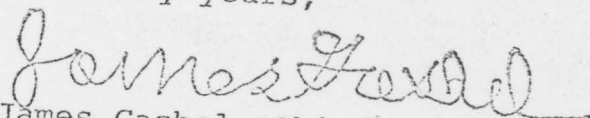
This will reply to and thank you for your letter of May 2, 1975. We are pleased that you have recommended our draft of the White Cane Safety Day Proclamation.

LIST OF ORGANIZATIONS

The list of appropriate concerned organizations and their representatives is as follows: Dr. Kenneth Jernigan, President, National Federation of the Blind, 218 Randolph Hotel Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50309; Mr. Anthony G. Mannino, Executive Director, American Brotherhood for the Blind, 730 South Western, Suite 201, Los Angeles, California 90005; Dr. Jacob Freid, Executive Director, Jewish Braille Institute of America, 110 E. 30th Street, New York, NY 10016; Clyde Waugh, President, Blinded Veterans Association, 1735 DeSales Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036; Mr. Rami Rabby, Chairman, Cultural Exchange and International Program Committee for the Blind, 535 North Michigan Avenue, Apartment 304, Chicago, Illinois 60611; Mr. D. Curtis Willoughby, President, National Association of the Blind in Computer Science, 2711 54th Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50310; Ms. Anita O'Shea, President, National Association of Blind Secretaries and Transcribers, 1029 Elm Street, Apartment 6-B, West Springfield, Massachusetts 01089; Mr. Robert Acosta, President, National Blind Teachers Association, 20734C Devonshire, Chatsworth, California 91311; Mr. James Ryan, President, National Blind Merchants Guild, 4404 Fifth Street, N.E., Minneapolis, Minnesota 55421; Mr. James Lewis, President, Blind Lawyers of America, 3802 Cossell Road, Indianapolis, Indiana 46222; Mr. Marc Maurer, President, National Blind Students Association; 3800 W. Michigan, Apartment 701, Indianapolis, Indiana 46222; Mr. Ysidro Urena, President, Sheltered Shop Workers Guild of America; 1623 P. Street, Apartment 1, Sacramento, California 95814; Mr. Frank Kurt Cylke, Chief, Division for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, Library of Congress, 1291 Taylor Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20542; Dr. Andrew S. Adams, Commissioner, Rehabilitation Services Administration, Department of Health, Education and Welfare, 330 C Street, S.W. Washington, D.C. 20201.

Dr. D.C. McFarland, Director, Office for the Blind and Visually
Handicapped, Department of Health, Education and Welfare, 330
C Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20201; Mr. Sumner Whittier,
Director, Bureau of Supplemental Security Income for the Aged,
Blind and Disabled, Social Security Administration, Department of
Health, Education and Welfare, Baltimore, Maryland 21235.

Cordially yours,


James Gashel, Chief
Washington Office

Mr. James Gashel
Director
Washington Office
National Federation of the Blind
1346 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.
Suite 212
Washington, D.C. 20036

Mr. Robert Carter
Ex. Director
Blinded Veterans Association
1735 DeSales Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036

Mr. Vinson E. Allen
3112 Sleepy Hollow Rd.
Falls Church, Va. 22042

JUNE 23, 1975

Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

WHITE CANE SAFETY DAY, 1975

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

The white cane is universally recognized as one of the simplest yet most effective aids to the independent mobility of the blind. Today, as blind persons are participating in the mainstream of active life, the white cane has also become a symbol of their capacity to contribute meaningfully to the progress of all Americans.

One of the most gratifying developments in our efforts to achieve better lives for all Americans is the advancement of social and economic opportunities for blind citizens. This growth is represented by the widening array of jobs capably handled by the blind. Well trained blind persons are working in nearly every trade, profession, and calling. Modern techniques of mobility and the increased use of the white cane have made this possible.

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IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-third day of June, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred seventy-five, and of the Independence of the United States of America the one hundred ninety-ninth.

GERALD R. FORD

#

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 25, 1975

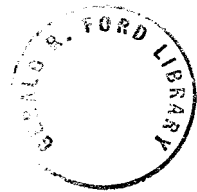
MEMORANDUM FOR: ROLAND ELLIOTT

FROM: MARGUERITE MCAULIFFE *W*

SUBJECT: White Cane Safety Day

Please arrange to have the attached letter robotyped to the individuals on the enclosed list for the White Cane Safety Day Proclamation.

Thanks very much.



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 25, 1975

Dear

President Ford recently signed a Proclamation designating October 15th as White Cane Safety Day, 1975. In his Proclamation the President states, "Today, as blind persons are participating in the mainstream of active life, the white cane has . . . become a symbol of their capacity to contribute meaningfully to the progress of all Americans."

The President asked that I send you the enclosed duplicate of his Proclamation as a small remembrance of this occasion. It comes to you with his very best wishes.

Sincerely,

William J. Baroody, Jr.
Assistant to the President

Enclosure

22/23



NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND

Box 347-4010

SUITE 212, DUPONT CIRCLE BUILDING
1346 CONNECTICUT AVENUE, N. W.
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20036

PHONE
(202) 223-3594
(202) 223-3595

795-2574

June 5, 1975

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Special Assistant to the President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

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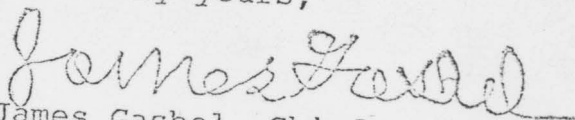
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Cordially yours,


James Gashel, Chief
Washington Office

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