



## United States Marshals Bicentennial Day, 1989

*By the President of the United States of America*

### **A Proclamation**

Two hundred years ago, on September 24, 1789, President George Washington signed into law Senate Bill Number One, known as the Judiciary Act. This Act established the Federal judicial system and created the Office of the United States Marshal. Only 2 days later, President Washington nominated the first United States marshals responsible for enforcing the Nation's laws and carrying out the orders of its courts.

Since then, United States marshals and their deputies have participated in many events shaping the development of our federal system of government. For more than a century, marshals and their deputies were the only civilian police power available to assist the President, the Congress, and the courts in upholding the rule of law in our rapidly expanding country.

As American pioneers pushed to the West, U.S. marshals faced grave dangers and constant hardship on the frontier. They later helped to maintain social order and facilitate the difficult task of Reconstruction following the Civil War. United States marshals also played a vital role in enforcing provisions of the Civil Rights Act during the turbulent years of the 1960's. During 2 centuries of service to our country, more than 300 United States marshals and deputy marshals have died in the line of duty. Their supreme sacrifice reveals the great personal risks that U.S. marshals continue to accept each day.

Today, United States marshals are engaged in virtually every Federal law enforcement initiative. Marshals provide for the security of Federal courts, including the protection of judges, witnesses, jurors, and other court personnel. They play a major role in the pursuit and capture of fugitives from justice, and Federal prisoners awaiting trial or sentencing are entrusted to their custody. They also operate the Witness Protection program, which is responsible for protecting persons who testify for the Government in major criminal cases.

In one of their most important current functions, U.S. marshals administer the program under which the assets and profits of drug traffickers are seized, managed, and sold. The proceeds from such sales are used in our Nation's fight against crime and drug abuse. This summer alone, the U.S. Marshals Service led an anti-drug effort involving ten local police agencies in the Nation's Capital and its suburbs. That initiative resulted in the arrest of hundreds of career drug criminals and the closing of scores of suspected "crack houses."

An unflinching respect for the rule of law and the rights of individual Americans has motivated the courageous men and women of the United States Marshals Service throughout its history. Their legacy of personal sacrifice and public service merits the appreciation of every American.

In recognition of the vital efforts of our Nation's oldest law enforcement agency, the Congress, by Senate Joint Resolution 352 (Public Law 100-683) has designated September 24, 1989, as "United States Marshals Bicentennial Day" and has authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this day.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE BUSH, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim September 24, 1989, as United States Marshals Bicentennial Day. I call upon the people of the United States to observe this day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities, in recognition of the United States marshals' important role in defending individual rights and upholding the rule of law.

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

*George Bush*