

## National Homeownership Month, 2002

By the President of the United States of America  
A Proclamation

Homeownership is an important part of the American Dream. As President, I am committed to helping many more Americans achieve that dream. A home provides shelter and a safe place where families can prosper and children can thrive. For many Americans, their home is an important financial investment, and it can be a source of great personal pride and an important part of community stability.

Homeownership encourages personal responsibility and the values necessary for strong families. Where homeownership flourishes, neighborhoods are more stable, residents are more civic-minded, schools are better, and crime rates decline. Thanks to the resources available in our Nation, more Americans own homes today than at any time in our history. However, among African American and Hispanic families, fewer than half are home-owners. My Administration is working to provide all families with the tools and information they need to accumulate wealth and overcome barriers to homeownership.

The Department of Housing and Urban Development is partnering with State and local governments, community groups, and the private sector to make the most effective use of Federal funds. Through a combination of down payment assistance, tax incentives, and education about the process and responsibilities of homeownership, we are helping thousands of Americans buy homes and pursue a better quality of life.

During National Homeownership Month, I encourage all Americans to learn more about financial management and to explore homeownership opportunities in their communities. By taking this important step, individuals and families help safeguard their financial futures and contribute to the strength of our Nation.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim June 2002 as National Homeownership Month. I call upon the people of the United States to join me in recognizing the importance of providing all our citizens a chance to achieve the American Dream.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this fourth day of June, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

## Great Outdoors Month, 2004

By the President of the United States of America  
A Proclamation

More than 200 years ago, Captains Meriwether Lewis and William Clark embarked upon an expedition to explore uncharted lands and find passage across the Rocky Mountains to the Pacific Ocean. During the Captains' journey, their Corps of Discovery encountered remarkable landscapes, observed wildlife, and traded with American Indians. Two years into his experience, Captain Lewis was inspired by the beauty of a waterfall along the Missouri River that he called in his journal, "the grandest sight I ever beheld." Today, the splendor of the great outdoors continues to inspire our citizens, and a love of outdoor recreation remains a fundamental part of the American character. By observing Great Outdoors Month, we celebrate our commitment to appreciating and protecting our natural wealth.

Outdoor recreation is an ideal way to exercise and enjoy memorable experiences with family and friends, and all across our country are scenic places that sports and nature enthusiasts can explore and help keep beautiful. During Great Outdoors Month and throughout the year, I encourage Americans to go camping, fishing, hunting, hiking, bird watching, boating, or to participate in other outdoor activities that are part of a healthy lifestyle.

The true strength of our Nation lies in the hearts and souls of our citizens, and I urge all Americans not only to visit our parks and recreation areas, but also to volunteer their time and talents to help maintain the beauty of our environment. Good stewardship of the environment is not just a personal responsibility, it is a public value; and citizens who lend a hand to local parks and public lands are vital to the preservation of our Nation's many special places. Americans can take pride in the remarkable progress we continue to make in conserving our environment and natural resources.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim June 2004 as Great Outdoors Month. I call upon the people of the United States to observe this month with appropriate ceremonies and activities and to participate in safe and enjoyable outdoor recreation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this fourth day of June, in the year of our Lord two thousand four, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-eighth.

George W. Bush

difficult one to address." Goddamn Will & Grace!

But there, on their site, I saw it spelled out in black and white: Leviticus 20:13: "If a man also lie with mankind, as he lieth with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination: they shall surely be put to death; their blood shall be upon them." This sounds worse than it actually is, Bud and Betty assure us later on that, "God loves all homosexuals! However, he hates the deeds of homosexuality because they are sinful. God did not create any human being as a homosexual. They are not born that way, just as murderers are not born that way. However, these spirits can be transmitted to children, especially if someone who had this demonic spirit seduced or raped a child--or even if they were close to gay people. These demons can also be imparted to others through unholy sexual acts."

Oh my god, homosexuality can be passed on to anyone who is close to gay people? I knew there's a reason I'm suddenly incredibly attracted about Scott Baio every time I hang up the phone with my gay sister.

Maybe June should be Convert Gays and Lesbians Month. Christianity was once used to convince African Americans to give up their religion and tell them that if they submitted to slavery that they would be given a ticket to heaven (which many slaves took as they would go back to Africa when they died). No one's asking gays and lesbians to work under extreme conditions and endure beatings, we're just asking them to get their Jesus on and quit acting sinful.

The more I think about it, President Bush is right, we shouldn't celebrate Gay and Lesbian Pride Month. Now if you'll excuse me, I have to track down Corey Haim and convert my sister. Don't forget to take a hike and celebrate The Great Outdoors Month before the outdoors become nothing more than overpriced houses and expensive golf courses!