



UNITED STATES
OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT
WASHINGTON, DC 20415-1000

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

June 6, 2004

MEMORANDUM FOR HEADS OF EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

FROM: KAY COLES JAMES
DIRECTOR

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kay Coles James".

SUBJECT: National Day of Mourning for President Ronald Reagan:
President George W. Bush Orders Federal Government Closure
on Friday, June 11, 2004

As the Nation mourns the loss of President Ronald Reagan, President George W. Bush has taken official action to allow Federal employees to join their fellow citizens in remembering our fortieth President of the United States. The President has today issued the attached Executive order to close Federal offices and excuse all Federal employees from duty for the scheduled workday on Friday, June 11, 2004, except those who, in the judgment of the head of the agency, cannot be excused for reasons of national security, defense, or other essential public business.

As President Bush stated in the attached proclamation earlier today, "Ronald Reagan renewed America's confidence and restored our Nation. His optimism, strength, and humility epitomized the American spirit. He always told us that for America the best was yet to come."

President Reagan placed America back on the world stage, rebuilt our military capacity and defeated the Soviet Communist empire. Today, thanks to the leadership of President Reagan, millions of free people around the world join Americans in practicing intellectual freedom, open expression, and freedom to worship that had been denied them for decades.

For pay and leave purposes, this period of time will be treated as falling within the scope of statutes and Executive orders governing holidays. Most employees who are excused from duty as a result of the President's Executive order will receive the basic pay they would have received if no Executive order had been issued. An employee who was previously scheduled to take annual leave on June 11, 2004, will not be charged annual leave (or any other form of paid leave, compensatory time off, or credit hours) for that day. (This policy does not apply to employees who receive annual premium pay for standby duty under 5 U.S.C. 5545(c)(1) or to firefighters who are covered by the special pay provisions of 5 U.S.C. 5545b.)

For general pay and leave administration instructions, please refer to our fact sheets on:

“Federal Holidays--Work Schedules and Pay”

<http://www.opm.gov/oca/worksch/HTML/HOLIDAY.asp>,

“Compressed Work Schedules”

<http://www.opm.gov/oca/worksch/HTML/AWScws.asp>, and

“Flexible Work Schedules”

<http://www.opm.gov/oca/worksch/HTML/awsfws.asp>.

Employees of the U.S. Postal Service and contract employees should contact their supervisor (or contract officer) to obtain information on their pay and leave entitlements.

cc: Chief Human Capital Officers
Directors of Human Resources

Attachments

EXECUTIVE ORDER

PROVIDING FOR THE CLOSING OF GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES ON JUNE 11, 2004

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and laws of the United States of America, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. All executive departments, independent establishments, and other Governmental agencies shall be closed on June 11, 2004, as a mark of respect for Ronald Reagan, the fortieth President of the United States. That day shall be considered as falling within the scope of Executive Order 11582 and of 5 U.S.C. 5546 and 6103(b) and other similar statutes insofar as they relate to the pay and leave of employees of the United States.

Section 2. The first sentence of section 1 of this order shall not apply to those offices and installations or parts thereof, in the Department of State, the Department of Defense, the Department of Justice, the Department of Homeland Security, or other departments, independent establishments, and Governmental agencies that the heads thereof determine should remain open for reasons of national security or defense or other essential public business.

GEORGE W. BUSH

THE WHITE HOUSE
June 6, 2004

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(Sea Island, Georgia)
For Immediate Release

June 6, 2004

ANNOUNCING THE DEATH OF RONALD REAGAN

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

TO THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES:

It is my sad duty to announce officially the death of Ronald Reagan, the fortieth President of the United States, on June 5, 2004.

We are blessed to live in a Nation, and a world, that have been shaped by the will, the leadership, and the vision of Ronald Reagan.

With an unshakable faith in the values of our country and the character of our people, Ronald Reagan renewed America's confidence and restored our Nation. His optimism, strength, and humility epitomized the American spirit. He always told us that for America the best was yet to come.

Ronald Reagan believed that God takes the side of justice and that America has a special calling to oppose tyranny and defend freedom. Through his courage and determination, he enhanced America's security and advanced the spread of peace, liberty, and democracy to millions of people who had lived in darkness and oppression. As America's President, Ronald Reagan helped change the world.

President Reagan has left us, but he has left us stronger and better. We take comfort in the knowledge that he has left us for a better place, the shining city that awaits him.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United States of America, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, in honor and tribute to the memory of Ronald Reagan, and as an expression of public sorrow, do hereby direct that the flag of the United States be displayed at half-staff at the White House and on all buildings, grounds, and Naval vessels of the United States for a period of 30 days from the day of his death. I also direct that for the same length of time, the representatives of the United States in foreign countries shall make similar arrangements for the display of the flag at half-staff over their Embassies, Legations, and other facilities abroad, including all military facilities and stations.

I hereby order that suitable honors be rendered by units of the Armed Forces under orders of the Secretary of Defense.

I do further appoint Friday, June 11, 2004, as a National Day of Mourning throughout the United States. I call on the American people to assemble on that day in their respective places of worship, there to pay homage to the memory of President Reagan. I invite the people of the world who share our grief to join us in this solemn observance.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this sixth 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

###