

Department of Veterans Affairs

Proclamation

VA Observance of the 35th Anniversary of Earth Day 1970 – 2005

Whereas, Earth Day was founded on April 22, 1970, to focus national attention on the need to improve and safeguard the quality of the natural environment.

Whereas, the first Earth Day led to creation of the United States Environmental Protection Agency and passage of significant environmental protection legislation such as the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, Endangered Species Act, and Resource Conservation and Recovery Act.

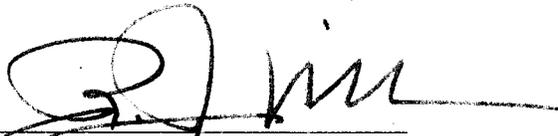
Whereas, in accomplishing our mission to deliver quality health care to our Nation's veterans, provide benefits and services to veterans and their families, and honor veterans with final resting places and lasting memorials that commemorate their service to our Nation, the Department of Veterans Affairs must also strive to protect the environment.

Whereas, in meeting our mission goals, VA is committed to preventing pollution, minimizing waste, reducing energy consumption, purchasing environmentally preferable products and services, and conserving natural and cultural resources.

Whereas, to ensure a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment, VA recognizes that environmental accountability must be integrated into day-to-day decision-making and long-term planning processes across VA activities, functions, and services.

Resolved, now, therefore, be it that on April 22, 2005, the 35th Anniversary of Earth Day, the Department of Veterans Affairs reaffirms its commitment to environmental stewardship. VA calls upon all employees and facilities to take action to continually improve the management of our environmental programs, and to protect and preserve the environment for this and future generations.




R. James Nicholson
Secretary of Veterans Affairs