

Proclamation 6234 of November 20, 1990**National Adoption Week, 1990**

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

During the holiday season that begins on Thanksgiving, our thoughts turn toward home and family. At this special time of year, most of us can recall warm memories of past family gatherings as we look forward to being reunited once again with our dearest relatives and other loved ones. Tragically, however, thousands of American youngsters will not be able to enjoy this festive and holy season with a family of their own—these are children waiting to be adopted.

Each year, some 60,000 waiting children do find permanent, loving homes in the United States. Each year, many infants are given the chance for full and happy lives when their biological mothers choose adoption over abortion. Nevertheless, an estimated 30,000 children who are legally available for adoption still wait in foster care for permanent families. Many of these children have special needs—they are children with physical, mental, or emotional disabilities; they are older or minority children; and they are children with siblings who need to be adopted by the same family. Regardless of the individual needs they may have, all of these waiting children are eager to love and to be loved by a family of their own.

An act of faith, courage, and generosity, adoption benefits everyone it touches: the youngster who needs and desires a lasting home and loving family; the expectant mother who, for whatever reason, cannot keep her child; and the prospective parents who long to open their hearts and their homes to adoptive children. However, despite the many benefits of adoption, thousands of children continue to wait.

In both the public and private sectors, we must continue working to eliminate daunting legal, financial, and attitudinal barriers to adoption. Toward that end, my Administration has developed proposals to help individuals meet the financial commitment involved in adopting children with special needs. We are also taking steps to encourage interested Federal employees to adopt.

During National Adoption Week, we gratefully recognize all those Americans who have joined in the effort to find permanent homes for waiting children—the counselors, social workers, attorneys, legislators, volunteers, employers, media professionals, and members of the clergy who devote their time, skills, and resources to encouraging adoption. This week let us also express our admiration and pledge our support for those courageous and selfless women who choose life for their unborn children. Finally, let us also remember those precious youngsters who, on this very day, wait to be adopted—let us renew our determination to help them gain the sense of security and belonging that they so desperately need and deserve.

To promote public awareness of adoption, the Congress, by Senate Joint Resolution 362, has designated the period commencing on November 18, 1990, and ending on November 24, 1990, as "National Adoption

Week" and has authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this week.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE BUSH, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim the week of November 18 through November 24, 1990, as National Adoption Week. I urge all Americans to observe this week with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twentieth day of November, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and fifteenth.

GEORGE BUSH

Proclamation 6235 of November 20, 1990

National Family Caregivers Week, 1990

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Traditionally, the American family has both symbolized and fostered the values that are at the heart of any truly strong and caring society—values such as faithfulness, commitment, and respect and concern for others. During National Family Caregivers Week, as we celebrate the American family and its ability to care for its members, we also reaffirm the importance of those values to us as individuals and as a Nation.

Each day millions of Americans provide various forms of assistance to relatives incapacitated by age, illness, or disability. In addition to home nursing care and companionship, these family caregivers may provide physically impaired loved ones with financial support, transportation, and help with shopping, cooking, and daily household maintenance. Their generous and devoted labors are invaluable to the relative who might otherwise be forced to live in an institutional setting.

Through their dedicated efforts, family caregivers not only help ill and elderly loved ones to maintain their dignity and independence but also provide wonderful examples of the love and commitment that are the essence of family life. This week we proudly salute these hardworking men and women.

The Congress, by House Joint Resolution 525, has designated the week of November 18 through November 24, 1990, as "National Family Caregivers Week" and has authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this week.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE BUSH, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim the week of November 18 through November 24, 1990, as National Family Caregivers Week. I encourage the people of the United States to observe this week with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twentieth day of November, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety,