

the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twentieth.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

Proclamation 6896 of May 15, 1996

National Defense Transportation Day and National Transportation Week, 1996

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Americans derive daily benefits from the finest transportation system in the world. Our Nation's network of land, sea, and air travel allows for the efficient movement of goods and people, strengthening our economy, uniting our citizens, and linking us to other countries around the globe. As we strive to compete in an international marketplace, we must deepen our commitment to this infrastructure and continue the long-standing partnership between government and industry that has made our successes possible.

Transportation has played a vital role in America's recent economic recovery, creating some 400,000 new jobs in the last 3 years. Fields that faced financial difficulties just a short time ago, such as aerospace, shipbuilding, and airlines, are now profitable and growing. My Administration has been proud to sign more than 30 new market-opening aviation agreements, including an agreement with Canada, our biggest trading partner, that has generated significant economic activity in just one year and facilitated air travel between our two countries.

In an effort to build on this progress and further improve efficiency, we have increased our national investment in infrastructure—by some 11 percent a year over early 1990s levels—while streamlining the Department of Transportation by 10,000 employees and cutting red tape to speed the financing and construction of highway projects. Safety remains a top priority in these efforts, and communities across the country are working to protect drivers, passengers, pedestrians, and bicyclists. Sophisticated communications technology helps relieve traffic congestion in urban areas and expanded mass transit systems move people more quickly and safely with minimal environmental impact.

To celebrate these accomplishments and to honor the millions of men and women, both government and private sector employees, who maintain America's transportation system and contribute so much to our Nation's activities, the Congress, by joint resolution approved May 16, 1957 (36 U.S.C. 160), has designated the third Friday in May of each year as "National Defense Transportation Day" and, by joint resolution approved May 14, 1962 (36 U.S.C. 166), declared that the week within which that Friday falls be designated "National Transportation Week."

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM J. CLINTON, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim Friday, May 17, 1996, as National Defense Transportation Day and May 12 through May 18, 1996, as National

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Transportation Week. I urge all Americans to observe these occasions with appropriate ceremonies and activities, giving due recognition to the countless individuals and organizations that build, secure, and operate this country's modern transportation system.

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

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

Proclamation 6897 of May 17, 1996

National Safe Boating Week, 1996

*By the President of the United States of America
A Proclamation*

Each year, more Americans choose recreational boating as a means of appreciating our Nation's scenic lakes, beautiful rivers, and vast ocean waterways. Boating is a leisure activity that can be enjoyed by people of all ages and abilities, offering a unique perspective on an unparalleled variety of natural landscapes. This pastime is not without risk, however, and a thorough knowledge of water safety techniques and equipment is an essential part of being a responsible boater.

Studies show that in more than 77 percent of the fully documented recreational boating fatalities that occur every year, the victim was not wearing a life jacket. Falling overboard and capsizing are the leading causes of these deaths, and more than half of all boating accidents are alcohol-related—facts that clearly illustrate the importance of not mixing alcohol and boating, and of properly using personal flotation devices. Skippers, crew members, passengers, and all those who participate in nautical sports should wear safety equipment every time they take to the water.

I commend the United States Coast Guard and the many State and local recreational boating organizations that are working with Government agencies and volunteers across the country to promote the use of life jackets and to educate the public about other lifesaving measures. As we look forward to the summer months and spending time with family and friends on America's waterways, such efforts are vital to ensuring our citizens' health and safety.

In recognition of the value of safe boating practices, the Congress, by joint resolution approved June 4, 1958 (36 U.S.C. 161), as amended, has authorized and requested the President to proclaim annually the seven day period prior to the Memorial Day Weekend as "National Safe Boating Week."

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM J. CLINTON, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim May 18 through May 24, 1996, as National Safe Boating Week. I encourage the Governors of the 50 States and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and officials of other areas subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, to join in observing this occasion. I