

**Proclamation 5640 of April 28, 1987****National Cancer Institute Month, 1987**

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

This year we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Act that created the National Cancer Institute. For half a century the NCI staff has worked with talent, dedication, and creativity and made much progress in cancer control programs. Our national investment in the NCI is paying impressive dividends. Cancer patients are living longer today and leading fuller lives than ever before; since the early 1940s, the 5-year relative survival rate for cancer has risen from 30 percent to 50 percent.

In its first decade, the NCI began to assist State cancer control activities and launched a journal for the scientific community. In its second decade, the NCI expanded grants for research and cancer control and supported better training of doctors and dentists in cancer research, diagnosis, and treatment. In the 1960s, the NCI developed task forces for specific types of cancer, established discipline-oriented laboratories and clinics, and integrated laboratory and clinical research programs.

The National Cancer Act of 1971, capitalizing on early achievements and intensifying our Nation's commitment to cancer control, expanded the NCI's missions and made it a unique structure capable of coherent and systematic attack on the complex problem of cancer. The NCI, part of the National Institutes of Health within the Department of Health and Human Services, today conducts and sponsors research, education, and training and collects and disseminates information worldwide.

The NCI's basic research over the last 15 years has brought about unparalleled understanding of the cancer cell and extraordinary insights into cellular biology. Applying knowledge now at hand could cut the annual cancer death rate by 50 percent by the year 2000. To reach this goal, the NCI urges us to stop smoking, cut fat consumption to 30 percent or less of total calories, and double daily consumption of fiber from whole-grain breads, cereals, fruits, and vegetables. All adults should also ask their doctors about special early cancer detection tests. Two such tests are mammography for breast cancer and Pap smears for cervical cancer.

The NCI also calls for nationwide application of state-of-the-art treatments for cancer. A national network now links major laboratories and cancer centers with doctors in local communities, bringing research advances to the bedside. NCI programs provide the latest treatment news through the computerized PDQ (Physician Data Query) System. The Cancer Information Service, whose toll-free telephone number is 1-800-4-CANCER, answers cancer-related questions from the public, cancer patients and their families, and health professionals.

In recognition of the 50th anniversary of the National Cancer Institute and in appreciation of the Institute's achievements, the Congress, by Public Law 100-24, has designated May 1987 as "National Cancer Institute Month" and authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this month.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RONALD REAGAN, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim the month of May 1987 as National Cancer Institute Month. I urge health professionals, the media, civic organizations, and all other interested people and groups to unite during this time in public recognition of the contributions of the National Cancer Institute to our commitment to control cancer.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-eighth day of April, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and eighty-seven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and eleventh.

RONALD REAGAN

**Proclamation 5641 of April 28, 1987**

**Mother's Day, 1987**

*By the President of the United States of America*

*A Proclamation*

For more than 70 years, we Americans have set aside the second Sunday in May to honor our mothers and tell them of our love. No matter how often we express these tributes of the heart throughout the year, we choose to do so in a special way on Mother's Day.

That is because we know and can never forget all that our mothers have given us every day, year by year, in love and courage, in toil and sacrifice, in prayer and example, in faith and forgiveness. There is no love like a mother's—she who carries the child that God knits in the womb, she who nourishes and guides, she who teaches and inspires, she who gives of her heart and soul and self for the good and the happiness of her children and her family.

As mothers help give their families a stability rooted in love, steadfastness, devotion, and morality, they strengthen our communities and our Nation at the same time. Mother's Day is a wonderful time for each of us to give thanks for America's mothers and for all they mean and have meant to our country and our history. It is also a time to thank our own mothers; and whether we may do this in person still, or by loving memory, let us do it with all the love and thanks and prayer we possess.

In recognition of the contributions of mothers to their families and to our Nation, the Congress, by a joint resolution approved May 8, 1914 (38 Stat. 770), has designated the second Sunday in May each year as Mother's Day and requested the President to call for its appropriate observance.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RONALD REAGAN, President of the United States of America, do hereby request that Sunday, May 10, 1987, be observed as Mother's Day. I urge all Americans to express their love and respect for their mothers and to reflect on the importance of motherhood to the well-being of our country. I direct government officials to display the flag of the United States on all Federal government buildings, and I urge all citizens to display the flag at their homes and other suitable places on that day.