

Alzheimer's disease is precisely that, a disease of the brain. It is not a normal consequence of aging. Scientific studies of families with an abnormally high incidence of Alzheimer's disease have revealed a possible genetic connection in some patients to chromosome 21. Encouragingly, new knowledge about the brain's neurotransmitters—chemicals that ferry messages between nerve cells—is enabling scientists to develop experimental drugs to try to slow or halt the relentless progress of the disease.

Within the Federal Government, research into the cause, diagnosis, treatment, and ultimately the prevention of Alzheimer's disease is led by the National Institute of Neurological and Communicative Disorders and Stroke, the National Institute on Aging, and the National Institute of Mental Health. Federal research efforts are augmented in the private sector by the work of voluntary health organizations committed to the conquest of dementing disorders. Through forceful leadership, these groups aid distressed families, inform the public, and attract young investigators to the challenge of Alzheimer's disease research.

To enhance public awareness of Alzheimer's disease, the Congress, by Senate Joint Resolution 261, has designated November 1988 as "National Alzheimer's Disease Month" and authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this occasion.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RONALD REAGAN, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim November 1988 as National Alzheimer's Disease Month, and I call upon the people of the United States to observe this month with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this fifth day of November, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and eighty-eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America two hundred and thirteenth.

RONALD REAGAN

Proclamation 5901 of November 5, 1988

National Diabetes Month, 1988

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

Eleven million Americans suffer from diabetes. The disease strikes men, women, and children of all races. It takes many forms and is likely to have many causes, but the long-term outcome is the same—over the years, diabetes damages the heart, blood vessels, kidneys, eyes, and nerves. The disease and its complications affect individuals and our country heavily in terms of illness, disability, and economic loss.

Through research, we are learning how diabetes occurs, how it causes complications, and how in the future we may short-circuit its effects. We are also improving the understanding and management of diabetes,

thereby helping people with this disease to minimize the threat of complications.

Nevertheless, much work lies ahead. As research continues to provide insights, the communication of new information to those in the forefront of managing this disease—primary care practitioners and people with diabetes—will permit new advances to be put into practice.

Through research we can find a way to eradicate this disease, and through public awareness we can keep those with diabetes healthier than ever before. The continued cooperation of the Federal Government, the scientific community, and private individuals and organizations makes our success in both these realms possible.

To increase public awareness of diabetes and to emphasize the need for continued research efforts, the Congress, by Senate Joint Resolution 272, has designated November 1988 as "National Diabetes Month" and authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this occasion.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RONALD REAGAN, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim November 1988 as National Diabetes Month, and I call upon concerned governmental agencies, health care providers, and the people of the United States to observe this month with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this fifth day of November, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and eighty-eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirteenth.

RONALD REAGAN

Proclamation 5902 of November 5, 1988

National Disabled Americans Week, 1988

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Americans are thankful for the inspiration and achievements of the millions of us who have disabilities. Through the years, and in more and more spheres of endeavor, disabled Americans have demonstrated their capabilities and their desire to make the most of the opportunities life can offer. Still, much more remains to be done by each of us so all citizens with disabilities can reach their potential.

To reach this goal, for the past 20 years a partnership between governments at all levels and the private sector, including groups and individual volunteers, has fostered opportunity for disabled citizens. National Disabled Americans Week, 1988, allows each of us to salute efforts aimed at developing and utilizing the skills and insights of disabled people—and to honor the spirit and accomplishments of Americans with disabilities in these efforts and in communities everywhere.

The Congress, by Senate Joint Resolution 319, has designated the period beginning November 6, 1988, and ending November 12, 1988, as