

Encouraged by the progress that we have made thus far, and recognizing the need for continued education and research, let us pause this month to strengthen and renew our commitment to the fight against cardiovascular disease. After all, the many programs and activities that are conducted during American Heart Month offer lessons for life.

The Congress, by Joint Resolution approved December 30, 1963 (77 Stat. 843; 36 U.S.C. 169b), has requested that the President issue an annual proclamation designating February as "American Heart Month."

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE BUSH, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim the month of February 1992 as American Heart Month. I urge all Americans to join in observing this month with appropriate programs and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 14 day of February, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and sixteenth.

GEORGE BUSH

Proclamation 6404 of February 14, 1992

National Visiting Nurse Associations Week, 1992

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

When Florence Nightingale and William Rathbone's concept of the visiting nurse was brought to the United States in 1885, that event marked the beginning of a long and distinguished tradition of service to homebound Americans. Today the Department of Health and Human Services reports that more than 1,500,000 men, women, and children receive home health care and support services through visiting nurse associations. Such assistance is invaluable to persons who are terminally ill, to persons who are recovering from a temporary illness or injury, and to persons who are incapacitated by a chronic disease or disability—individuals who might otherwise be forced to seek care in an institutional setting. Visiting nurse associations enable these Americans to obtain needed services in the comfort and security of their own homes.

While it is inspired by the same spirit of compassion and volunteerism, the role of the visiting nurse has changed dramatically over the past 100 years. In addition to providing medical care, visiting nurse associations also offer social services, nutritional counseling and Meals-on-Wheels programs, as well as physical, speech, and occupational therapy. Today's visiting nurse associations also operate wellness clinics, hospices, and adult day care centers. Their efforts are a reminder that health care is made more accessible and more affordable by the hundreds of thousands of Americans who volunteer their time and service to others.

The Visiting Nurse Associations of America are independently operated community organizations that serve more than 500 urban and rural communities in 45 States. These organizations are committed to

providing quality health care to all people, regardless of one's ability to pay, and this week, we gratefully salute the many hardworking professionals and volunteers who help to uphold their wonderful tradition of service.

The Congress, by Public Law 102-207, has designated the week beginning February 16, 1992, as "National Visiting Nurse Associations 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 February 16 through February 22, 1992, as National Visiting Nurse Associations Week. I invite all Americans to observe this week with appropriate programs and activities.

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

GEORGE BUSH

Proclamation 6405 of February 25, 1992

Save Your Vision Week, 1992

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

As the "window" to the brain, the human eye joins our other senses in opening the mind to the outside world, enabling us to appreciate more fully the wonders of creation and their wide range of form, color, size, and motion. While the gift of sight is a tremendous blessing, it is one that we sometimes, all too easily, take for granted. Hence, during Save Your Vision Week, we reflect on both the importance of good vision in our daily lives and the vital role of prevention, early detection, and treatment in the fight against vision loss.

Each year thousands of Americans suffer from vision loss that might have been prevented. One simple and effective way to prevent such tragedies is through periodic eye examinations by a licensed professional. Regular eye exams can provide an early warning of eye disease and allow an eye care professional to initiate prompt treatment.

Glaucoma is one potentially blinding eye disease that can be controlled and treated effectively if detected early. Despite this fact, however, glaucoma remains a leading cause of blindness in the United States. People who run the highest risk of developing the disease—in particular, black Americans over the age of 40 and all persons over the age of 60—are urged to obtain an eye examination at least every two years.

Periodic eye examinations are absolutely critical for persons with diabetes. Although diabetic eye disease is treatable, it remains a leading cause of blindness because many people with diabetes fail to have their eyes examined at least annually.