

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

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

**Proclamation 6604 of October 5, 1993**

**German-American Day, 1993**

*By the President of the United States of America*

*A Proclamation*

The makeup of the United States of America is a diverse one, a rich tapestry of different cultures and ethnic origins, stronger and more vibrant because of its variety. The German culture contributes a substantial piece to the American mosaic, and German-Americans have given much to our Nation in the arts, the sciences, the business world, academia, and government. It is fitting that we celebrate these innumerable contributions to our great Nation by marking October 6 as "German-American Day."

The first German settlers arrived in America 310 years ago—harbingers of the more than seven million to follow. German immigrants have thrived in America, finding our Nation's political and economic culture fertile ground for securing the inalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness for themselves and for their children. Today, citizens of German ancestry comprise the largest ethnic group in the United States.

German-Americans today look with pride to a free and unified Germany as the living symbol of the best in their heritage. Americans look with satisfaction at the enduring friendship between the Federal Republic of Germany and the United States of America. This friendship is rooted in a long line of immigrants and was replanted in the ashes of the Second World War and nurtured through the storms of national division and Cold War confrontation. Warmed by the benefits of peaceful commerce and strengthened by the myriad personal relationships between the German and American peoples, the friendship has flourished.

The United States and the Federal Republic of Germany face formidable challenges in the post-Cold War era, challenges that we approach with greater confidence because we stand together, united in common democratic values.

The Congress, by Senate Joint Resolution 121, has designated October 6, 1993, as "German-American Day" and has authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of that day.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM J. CLINTON, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim October 6, 1993, as German-American Day. I urge all Americans to learn more about the contributions of German immigrants to the United States in all fields of human endeavor and to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this fifth day of October, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-three,

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

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

Proclamation 6605 of October 6, 1993

### National Disability Employment Awareness Month, 1993

*By the President of the United States of America*

*A Proclamation*

The United States has long been a champion of the civil rights of individuals, and it is only natural that we now serve in the forefront of efforts to ensure equal opportunity for persons with disabilities. Inspired by the enactment of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) on July 26, 1990, other nations have begun to reexamine the challenges faced by their citizens with disabilities. The ADA, which prohibits discrimination in employment, public accommodations, government services, transportation, and communications, provides a practical model for people everywhere to ensure that individuals with disabilities will not be excluded from the social, cultural, and economic mainstream.

Together we have begun shifting disability policy in America from exclusion to inclusion; from dependence to independence; from paternalism to empowerment. And we have made a firm commitment—a national pledge of civil rights for people with disabilities—to enforce the Americans with Disabilities Act. We cannot be satisfied until all citizens with disabilities receive equal treatment under the law, whether in the workplace, in schools, in government, or in the courts. We will not be satisfied as a Nation until we have fully implemented the laws that offer equal opportunity for Americans with disabilities, including the ADA and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

We do not have a single person to waste. Citizens with disabilities want to lead full, independent, and productive lives. They want to work; they want to pay their fair share of taxes; they want to be self-supporting citizens. America must enable the 43 million talented Americans with disabilities to contribute by offering them the individualized training and education we offer everyone else.

Our Nation can ill afford to waste this vast and only partially tapped source of knowledge, skills, and talent. In addition to being costly—over \$300 billion is expended annually at the Federal, State, and local levels to financially support potentially independent individuals—this waste of human ability cannot be reconciled with our tradition of individual dignity, self-reliance, and empowerment. As we work to achieve thorough and harmonious implementation of the Americans with Disabilities Act, we will open the doors of opportunity for millions of people, thereby expanding, not only the ranks of the employed, but also the ranks of consumers. These individuals and their families will thus be able to pursue the real American Dream.

I congratulate the small business and industry leaders, labor leaders, and community leaders from all walks of life who are working together to implement the ADA and the Rehabilitation Act, and I commit the resources and cooperation of the Federal Government toward that ef-