

tional force that continually elevates the spirit of the service member when life's joys and sorrows need to be shared.

The Department of Defense has long recognized that the family unit is an important factor in the overall readiness and well-being of the members of the Armed Forces. Indeed, military families make extraordinary contributions to the entire Nation through their efforts to support and encourage their loved ones.

The Congress, by Senate Joint Resolution 115, has designated November 22, 1993, as "National Military Families Recognition Day" and has authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this day.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM J. CLINTON, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim November 22, 1993, as National Military Families Recognition Day. I call upon all Americans to join in honoring military families throughout the world. Finally, I ask Federal, State, and local officials and private organizations to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this eighteenth day of November, 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 6628 of November 22, 1993

National Family Week, 1993 and 1994

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

Families are our Nation's lifeblood and strength. No matter its size or composition, it is the source of our ideals and the birthplace of our memories. Connected families in vital communities are essential to this country's future.

The common bonds of family love, sharing, and mutual support have for generations shaped the character of our society. Anchored by strong insights, deeply felt convictions, moral principles, and concern for societal improvement and well-being, families have used their devotion, creative ideals, and energies to define themselves, their communities, and the Nation.

The willing acceptance of family obligations and the unselfish shouldering of responsibilities are core components of caring families. Families encourage and foster teamwork, as well as individuality, personal sacrifice, personal attainment, and a wide range of joys and life experiences.

America has maintained its unique position in the history of nations because we have not forgotten the teachings of our forebears. We have thrived because we, their children, have remained committed to advancing the causes of liberty and justice. Even in times of national cri-

sis, we have recalled the importance of our national family tree, always returning to the promise of its protective shade.

As families across the country gather in thanksgiving, it is particularly appropriate that we pause as a Nation to acknowledge the blessings of love and loyalty that families bring to their members and through them, to the community of America. Like our democracy, all of our families must strive to be nurturing and steady. All of our children, grandparents, mothers and fathers must know that no matter the challenges we face, we can be secure in the love and support of a family. This lesson is among our founders' most precious gifts. Fulfilling their ideal is each generation's most profound responsibility.

The Congress, by House Joint Resolution 79, has designated the week of November 21, 1993, and the week of November 20, 1994, as "National Family Week" and has authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of these weeks.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM J. CLINTON, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim the week of November 21, 1993, and the week of November 20, 1994, as National Family Week. I invite the States, communities, and people of the United States to observe these weeks with appropriate ceremonies and programs in appreciation of our Nation's families.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-second day of November, 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 6629 of November 24, 1993

National Adoption Week, 1993 and 1994

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

Our Nation's families are the guardians and first teachers of our most valuable resource and our primary responsibility—our children. Unfortunately, too many children do not have the opportunity to live and flourish in a family of their own. They have been orphaned, abandoned, neglected, or abused. They have been denied the protection and nurturing that a loving family environment can best provide. Now is the time to break the grip of the great crisis of the spirit that has far too long held our Nation. Now we can begin to bring about a change. There is much for each of us to contribute.

During National Adoption Week, it is vitally important for all of us to recognize the joys adoption can bring to the lives of children who are in need. For children who have been deprived of belonging to a secure, loving, and permanent home, an adoptive family can provide the most important ingredient in a child's life—love.

This Thanksgiving week, families across America will gather to give thanks to God for the blessings we all enjoy as individuals and as a Nation. Children who have no permanent families, who are waiting to