

for every ball game that fills our streets and playgrounds with laughter, we join today in celebrating the many blessings our children bring.

The Congress, by House Joint Resolution 389, has designated the second Sunday in October as "National Children's 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 October 9, 1994, as National Children's Day. I call upon all Americans to express their appreciation and their love, on this day and every day, for all of our Nation's children. I invite Federal officials, local government, and families across the land to join together in observing this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

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

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

Proclamation 6735 of October 7, 1994

Leif Erikson Day, 1994

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

Nearly a millennium has passed since Leif Erikson set out on his voyage to explore North America, a land then thought to be no more than an uncharted wilderness across the waters. Filled with the same spirit of discovery that characterized the travels of his father, Eric the Red, who sailed from Norway to Iceland to Greenland, the journey of Leif Erikson remains one of history's greatest legends. To commemorate the life of this bold adventurer and to recognize the generations of Nordic Americans who have followed in his footsteps, we celebrate Leif Erikson Day, 1994.

Leaving behind the ice-covered mountains of Greenland, Erikson helped to set the stage for centuries of trans-Atlantic exchange between his father's native Norway and the people of the New World. Today, the United States and the Nordic countries of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Sweden, and Norway, enjoy cordial friendships and are productive partners in fostering democracy and expanding trade. Carrying forward the ideals of their ancestors—ideals of liberty, human dignity, and self-determination—these nations stand with the United States in representing the freedom to which individuals around the world aspire.

The sons and daughters of Scandinavia who immigrated to this country in past centuries brought with them that abiding passion for justice and equality, and their determination to build a better life for themselves and their children has enriched our Nation immeasurably. For the tremendous contributions they have made to our society, and for the many wonderful traditions that their descendants continue to up-

hold, Americans across the country join in recognizing this special day every year.

In honor of Leif Erikson—son of Iceland, grandson of Norway—and of the vibrant Nordic American culture that continues to grace our Nation, the Congress, by joint resolution approved on September 2, 1964 (Public Law 88-566), has authorized and requested the President to designate October 9 of each year as “Leif Erikson Day.”

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM J. CLINTON, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim October 9, 1994, as Leif Erikson Day. I encourage all Americans to observe this occasion by learning more about our rich Nordic-American heritage.

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

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

Proclamation 6736 of October 7, 1994

Fire Prevention Week, 1994

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

The United States has made tremendous advances through the years in reducing the terrible toll that fire takes on our citizens. In 1925, when President Calvin Coolidge proclaimed the first National Fire Prevention Week, he noted that nearly 15,000 lives were lost each year to fire in our country. Fortunately, the numbers we report today are considerably lower. Despite this important trend, the vast majority of fire fatalities—almost 80 percent—still occur in our homes, in the places where we should feel safest.

A key line of defense against home fires is the protection provided by smoke detectors. But smoke detectors must be operating properly to furnish the early warning necessary to allow safe escape from a fire. Even though 90 percent of our Nation's homes have at least one smoke detector installed, about one-third of all homes in which fires occurred had smoke detectors that were not functioning correctly, usually because of faulty or missing batteries. To emphasize the importance of keeping our smoke detectors in good working order, the United States Fire Administration and the National Fire Protection Association are working with our Nation's fire service and other emergency management professionals to communicate effectively this year's Fire Prevention Week theme, “Test Your Detector for Life.”

Early warning of fire and smoke is critical because the majority of deaths as a result of home fires occur at night when people are most vulnerable. Smoke usually does not awaken us—instead it induces a deeper sleep. We need smoke detectors to alert us to the danger. During Fire Prevention Week, 1994, and throughout the entire year, it is important to remember four key points about home smoke detectors. First, make sure you have enough detectors. One detector should be in-