

play an increasingly important role in maintaining America's leadership in a highly competitive international marketplace.

Yet despite often impressive job qualifications, these citizens find that the search for employment becomes more difficult as they grow older. Those seeking to change careers or those struggling to find new jobs are too often confronted by employer reluctance or stereotyping. Rather than being judged on their abilities, older people sometimes face the injustice of being judged solely on their age.

But we Americans understand the meaning of fairness and the value of honest labor. Every reasonable measure of job performance tells us that older workers are at least as effective as younger employees. In many cases, their unique combinations of knowledge, skills, insight, and experience make older Americans even more effective.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM J. CLINTON, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim the week of March 12 through March 18, 1995, as "National Older Workers Employment Week." I urge all employers to consider carefully the qualifications of men and women 55 and older and to make use of their talents and expertise. I also encourage public officials responsible for job placement, training, and related services to intensify efforts to help older workers find suitable jobs and training.

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

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

**Proclamation 6770 of February 15, 1995**

**National Poison Prevention Week, 1995**

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

Children are the future of our country, and protecting them is America's most sacred responsibility. All of us—government leaders, citizens, parents—are bound to do whatever we can to keep them safe and healthy. Simple safety measures—such as using child-resistant packaging correctly, locking cupboards, keeping prescriptions and cleaning supplies out of the reach of a child's hands—all can protect our most precious resource from the dangers of poison and other hazardous substances.

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) has made great progress in safeguarding our young people by mandating child-resistant packaging for medicine and dangerous chemicals. And the invaluable work of the Nation's poison control centers has saved countless lives, both young and old. These public health efforts have reduced childhood poisoning deaths from 450 in 1961 to 62 in 1991.

However, according to the American Association of Poison Control Centers, nearly 1 million children each year are exposed to potentially

poisonous medicines and household chemicals. Every year we lose children to poisoning—and almost all of these poisonings are preventable. This week—and every week—we must rededicate ourselves to informing everyone of the importance of prevention and to educating all caregivers about ways to prevent childhood poisonings.

To encourage the American people to learn more about the dangers of accidental poisonings and to take more preventive measures, the Congress, by Public Law 87-319 (75 Stat. 681), has authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation designating the third week of March of each year as "National Poison Prevention Week."

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM J. CLINTON, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim the week beginning March 19, 1995, as National Poison Prevention Week. I call upon all Americans to observe this week by participating in appropriate ceremonies and activities.

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

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

#### **Proclamation 6771 of February 23, 1995**

#### **Irish-American Heritage Month, 1995**

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

America's bounty—the abundance of the fields, the beauty of the landscape, the richness of our opportunities—has always attracted people who are in search of a better life for themselves and their children. Our democracy owes its success in great part to the countless immigrants who have made their way to our shores and to the tremendous diversity this Nation has been blessed with since its beginnings.

In March, when communities all across the country celebrate St. Patrick's Day, our Nation honors the rich heritage of the millions of Americans who trace their lineage to Ireland. Coming to this land even before our Nation was founded, sons and daughters of Erin undertook the perilous journey to make their home in a place of hope and promise. They made inestimable contributions to their new country, both during the struggle for independence and in the founding of the Republic. Nine of the people who signed our Declaration of Independence were of Irish origin, and nineteen Presidents of the United States proudly claim Irish heritage—including our first President, George Washington.

The largest wave of Irish immigrants came in the late 1840s, when the Great Famine ravaging Ireland caused 2 million people to emigrate, mostly to American soil. These immigrants transformed our largest cities and helped to build them into dynamic centers of commerce and industry, and their contributions to our smaller cities and towns are evident today in the cultural, economic, and spiritual makeup of the communities. Throughout the country, they faced callous discrimina-