

Proclamation 6791 of April 26, 1995**National Crime Victims' Rights Week, 1995**

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Every year, more than 36 million people in America become the victims of crime. Offenders prey on our daughters and sons, sisters and brothers, parents, grandparents, and friends. Violent crime is creating fear and insecurity in communities across our Nation.

To ensure justice and promote healing, a grassroots crime victims' movement has worked to enact numerous initiatives in State legislatures across the country—laws that now provide crucial rights for crime victims and their families. As we mark National Crime Victims' Rights Week this year, Americans join in remembering the fallen, in celebrating criminal justice reforms, and in envisioning a future free from violence.

The Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994, which I signed into law this past September, ensures that our criminal justice system recognizes the victims. Its provisions include allocution rights for victims of violent crime and sexual abuse, truth in sentencing guidelines to ensure that violent offenders serve longer sentences, and sex offender registries designed to monitor offenders more effectively. This Act will help put 100,000 more police officers on the streets of our communities. And the landmark Violence Against Women Act is the first comprehensive Federal effort to address violence against women.

But no government can be truly effective without the active involvement of its citizens. Victim advocacy—the work of the more than 8,000 organizations and the countless individuals we honor this week—can be a lifeline to emotional survival. When random bullets wound a child, when a battered woman needs shelter in the night, when a rape survivor seeks help—victim advocates are there to comfort and support. Many of our Nation's crime victims and advocates work tirelessly in schools, neighborhoods, and youth custody facilities. They give faces and names to the statistics of crime, opening young peoples' eyes to the reality of violence and helping to plant seeds of responsibility that can last a lifetime.

We nonetheless recognize that much remains to be done. But with continued partnerships between every level of government, criminal justice and victim advocacy organizations, and crime survivors and their families, America can begin to replace the nightmare of crime with a bright new day of hope.

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 April 23 through April 29, 1995, as "National Crime Victims' Rights Week." I urge all Americans to pause and remember the victims of crime and to join in honoring those who serve crime victims and their families by working to reduce violence, to assist those harmed by crime, and to make our homes and communities safer places in which to live.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-sixth day of April, 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 6792 of April 27, 1995

Law Day, U.S.A., 1995

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Our legal system is the foundation on which this Nation was built. It enables us to realize the promises of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Law protects our homes, our families, and our communities. It secures our borders and safeguards our environment. It is the basis for free markets and our continued prosperity. And it helps guide our relationships with other lands.

When President John F. Kennedy proclaimed Law Day, U.S.A. in 1962, he reminded us that law, like freedom, demands constant vigilance. We must nurture "through education and example an appreciation of the values of our system of justice and . . . an increased respect for law and for the rights of others as basic elements of our free society." As we celebrate Law Day this year, it is more important than ever that we rededicate ourselves to reaching these goals.

Today, America's system of jurisprudence is being challenged as never before. Great technological advances are leading us to redefine and expand the ways in which laws apply to us as individuals and as a Nation. From communications to computer software, international trade to environmental protection, our legal system remains an anchor of freedom, even as it evolves to meet the demands of our rapidly changing times.

If we are to further advance the causes of democracy and human dignity around the world, we must not falter in enforcing the rule of law here at home. Laws must be applied as vigorously on Main Street as on the information superhighway. The legal community must help to restore Americans' sense of security and faith in justice. Most important, our laws must continue to fulfill our Founders' ideals of fairness and equality. Working together, we must strive to ensure that tomorrow's generations inherit the truths that have long sustained us as a people and move our Nation forward.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM J. CLINTON, President of the United States of America, in accordance with Public Law 87-20 of April 7, 1961, do hereby proclaim May 1, 1995, as "Law Day, U.S.A." I urge the people of the United States to use this occasion to reflect on our heritage of freedom, to familiarize themselves with their rights and responsibilities, and to aid others seeking to affirm their rights under law.

I call upon the legal profession, civic associations, educators, librarians, public officials, and the media to promote the observance of this