

But defeated they were, by an army of women and men who, inspired by the staunch courage and unswerving commitment of leaders like Susan B. Anthony, changed people's minds and the course of U.S. history. Using the classic tools of democracy—assembly and petition, exhortation and example, peaceful protest and political shrewdness—these champions of liberty won a lasting victory for civil rights. The fight was hard, the margins slim, and the outcome often in doubt. But after years of effort and sacrifice, after countless acts of courage and conscience, advocates of women's suffrage rejoiced as the Congress proposed an amendment to the Constitution in 1919 and as Tennessee, the last State needed for ratification, approved that amendment on August 18, 1920, by a single vote, when a young legislator heeded his mother's plea to support suffrage. On August 26, 1920, the 19th Amendment was finally proclaimed part of the United States Constitution, fulfilling Susan B. Anthony's pledge that "failure is impossible."

Women's Equality Day, while a fitting occasion to commemorate this great victory of wisdom over ignorance, is also a time for sober reflection that American democracy is a work in progress. The Declaration of Independence was only the first step in our long journey toward equality for all Americans. And while we have made much progress, until all women have an equal opportunity to develop their full potential and to make contributions that are accepted and welcomed by our society, our freedom as a Nation will be incomplete.

Let us observe Women's Equality Day, then, both as a celebration of past achievement and a promise for the future: a promise to promote and protect with vigor and vigilance the rights of all our citizens; a promise to decry the policies of exclusion and to pursue the ideal of equality for every American; and a promise to empower all of our people to take their rightful place as full and equal partners in the great American enterprise.

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 August 26, 1995, as "Women's Equality Day." I call upon the citizens of our great Nation to observe this day with appropriate programs and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this sixteenth day of August, 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 twentieth.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

**Proclamation 6817 of August 19, 1995**

### **Death of Those in the U.S. Delegation in Bosnia-Herzegovina**

*By the President of the United States of America*

*A Proclamation*

As a mark of respect for those who died as a result of the tragic accident near Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina, which occurred August 19,

1995, I hereby order, by the authority vested in me as President of the United States of America by section 175 of title 36 of the United States Code, that the flag of the United States shall be flown at half-staff upon all public buildings and grounds, at all military posts and naval stations, and on all naval vessels of the Federal Government in the District of Columbia and throughout the United States and its Territories and possessions until sunset, Wednesday, August 23, 1995. I also direct that the flag shall be flown at half-staff for the same length of time at all United States embassies, legations, consular offices, and other facilities abroad, including all military facilities and naval vessels and stations.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this nineteenth day of August, 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 twentieth.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

**Proclamation 6818 of August 29, 1995**

**National POW/MIA Recognition Day, 1995**

*By the President of the United States of America*

*A Proclamation*

Throughout our proud history, America's sons and daughters have answered the call to defend our fundamental liberties and to safeguard the freedoms of peace-seeking countries around the globe. Representing the finest this Nation has to offer, the members of our Armed Forces have given everything of themselves in defense of the independence and democracy that we hold so dear. This year we have a special opportunity to honor their service as we commemorate the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II, the dedication of the Korean War Veterans Memorial, and the unveiling of the POW and MIA postage stamp.

In remembering these heroic men and women, it is with profound respect and solemn appreciation that we single out those who paid the heaviest price. Among them are the Prisoners of War and those Missing in Action. Their courage and devotion to duty, honor, and country—often in the face of brutal treatment and torture by their captors—will never be forgotten by the American people.

Our Nation also recognizes that the families of these brave citizens have suffered and made great sacrifices for our country. For it is in the name of both the missing and their loved ones that we aggressively pursue the release of any United States service member held against his or her will, that we search tirelessly for information about the missing, and that we seek the repatriation of recoverable American remains.

On September 15, 1995, the flag of the National League of Families of American Prisoners of War and Missing in Southeast Asia, a black and white banner symbolizing America's missing, will be flown over the White House, the Capitol, the United States Departments of State, Defense, and Veterans Affairs, the Selective Service System Headquarters, the Vietnam Veterans and Korean War Veterans Memorials, and national cemeteries across the country. This flag is a symbol of our Na-