

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 9, 1997, as National Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day. I call upon all Americans to join in remembering former American prisoners of war who suffered the hardships of enemy captivity. I also call upon Federal, State, and local government officials and private organizations to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies, programs, and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this eighth day of April, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-seven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-first.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

Proclamation 6984 of April 9, 1997

National D.A.R.E. Day, 1997

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Today we honor Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.), the largest and most widely recognized substance abuse prevention and safety-promotion curriculum in the Nation. First developed in 1983, D.A.R.E. has continued to improve its methods as research findings have increased our knowledge of effective substance abuse prevention among school-age youth. More than 70 percent of America's school districts have adopted the program, and over 8,000 cooperative partnerships between law enforcement agencies and school districts now exist across the country. By virtue of D.A.R.E.'s expansive use and national impact, this acronym has achieved broad name recognition in association with substance abuse prevention, making the D.A.R.E. officer one of the most recognizable symbols for community policing and prevention.

Students, parents, police officers, and school administrators have long been familiar with the benefits of the D.A.R.E. program, and research has shown that ongoing reinforcement of drug prevention skills is critical in decreasing the likelihood of drug use by our youth.

Today and throughout the year, let us recognize D.A.R.E. as a model of partnership between educators, law enforcement, parents, and students, and let us commend D.A.R.E. officers for their dedicated efforts to help educate the children of America about the importance of remaining drug free.

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 10, 1997, as National D.A.R.E. Day. I call upon our youth, parents, and educators, and all the people of the United States to observe this day with appropriate activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this ninth day of April, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-seven,

and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-first.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

Proclamation 6985 of April 10, 1997

National Pay Inequity Awareness Day, 1997

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

Although more than three decades have passed since the Equal Pay Act and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act were signed into law, women working full-time and year round in the United States, on average, still earn only 71 percent of the wages earned by men. This means that, for the 1996 calendar year, the wages of the average American female worker will not match those of the average male worker until April 11 of this year.

Although the pay gap has narrowed over the past two decades, unfair pay practices persist in many U.S. business sectors. Paying a woman less than a male co-worker with equal skills and job responsibilities hurts that woman and her family—not only in immediate material benefit, but also in her ability to invest and save for retirement. Working women deserve—and are demanding—fair and equal pay for their time spent on the job. Over a quarter of a million women surveyed by the Department of Labor indicated that “improving pay scales” is one of their highest priorities in bringing fairness to the workplace.

To address this problem, my Administration has moved on several fronts simultaneously: I signed the increase in the minimum wage into law, initiated a pension education campaign, strengthened equal employment law enforcement, and created a Women’s Bureau Fair Pay Clearinghouse at the Department of Labor, which disseminates information on working women’s wages and occupations and on organizations that are active in improving women’s wages. In addition, my Administration, with over 200 private-sector partners, has formed the American Savings Education Council to educate women and men on how they can ensure their financial independence in retirement. Together with renewed attention focused on the reality of pay inequity and what it means for working women across the country, these initiatives create real opportunities for employers, working women, and organizations to develop new and effective approaches that achieve pay equity.

Strong enforcement of equal employment laws also plays a critical role in resolving unfair pay. The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission enforces laws that make it illegal to discriminate in wages, or to limit or segregate job applicants or employees in any way that would deprive them of opportunities because of sex, race, color, religion, age, national origin, or disability.

The Department of Labor’s Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs enforces nondiscrimination and affirmative action laws that apply to employers that do business with the Federal Government, en-