

learn; it means working to give them the opportunities they need to make the most of their lives; it means fostering their self-esteem and independent spirit so they can make their own contributions to our world. Being a parent is a challenge, a privilege, and a lifelong commitment.

My Administration has worked hard to help parents raise happy, healthy children. With the Family and Medical Leave Act, we gave working parents up to 12 weeks of leave to care for a family member in need. We protected family incomes through an increase in the minimum wage, expansion of the Earned Income Tax Credit, and the new Child Tax Credit. We stood up for reliable health insurance with the Kennedy-Kassebaum law and improved childhood immunization, with our new Children's Health Insurance Program. We opened the doors of higher education to more families by making student loans less expensive and easier to repay and by providing new tax credits and larger Pell Grant scholarships. We have proposed an historic initiative to ensure that parents have access to quality, affordable child care for their children. I pledge to continue supporting these types of effective programs and legislation so that America's parents have the tools they need to give their children a strong start in life.

Too often in the rush of daily existence, we fail to remember or acknowledge the many blessings we enjoy because of the love of our parents. On Parents' Day, we have an opportunity to express our profound appreciation to our own parents, to remember with love and gratitude those who are no longer with us, and to pay tribute to the millions of men and women across our Nation whose devotion as parents strengthens our society and forms the foundation of a bright future for America.

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 and consistent with Public Law 103-362, do hereby proclaim Sunday, July 26, 1998, as Parents' Day. I invite the States, communities, and the people of the United States to join together in observing this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities to honor our Nation's parents.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-fourth day of July, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-third.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

#### **Proclamation 7112 of July 30, 1998**

#### **Designation of American Heritage Rivers**

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

In celebration of America's rivers, and to recognize and reward grass-roots efforts to restore them, last year I announced the American Heritage Rivers initiative. My goal was to help communities realize their visions for their rivers by making it easier for them to tap existing pro-

grams and resources of the Federal Government. From across the country, hundreds of communities answered my call for nominations, asking that their rivers be designated American Heritage Rivers. I applaud all of the communities that have drawn together and dedicated themselves to the goal of healthy rivers, now and forever.

Having reviewed the recommendations of the American Heritage Rivers Initiative Advisory Committee, I am pleased to be able to recognize a select group of rivers and communities that reflect the true diversity and splendor of America's natural endowment, and the tremendous energy and commitment of its citizenry.

Pursuant to Executive Orders 13061, 13080, and 13093, I hereby designate the following American Heritage Rivers:

- **The Blackstone and Woonasquatucket Rivers, in the States of Massachusetts and Rhode Island;**
- **The Connecticut River, in the States of Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Vermont;**
  - **The Cuyahoga River, in the State of Ohio;**
  - **The Detroit River, in the State of Michigan;**
  - **The Hanalei River, in the State of Hawaii;**
  - **The Hudson River, in the State of New York;**
- **The Upper Mississippi River, in the States of Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, and Wisconsin;**
- **The Lower Mississippi River, in the States of Louisiana and Tennessee;**
- **The New River, in the States of North Carolina, Virginia, and West Virginia;**
  - **The Rio Grande, in the State of Texas;**
- **The Potomac River, in the District of Columbia and the States of Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia;**
  - **The St. Johns River, in the State of Florida;**
- **The Upper Susquehanna and Lackawanna Rivers, in the State of Pennsylvania;**
  - **The Willamette River, in the State of Oregon.**

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this thirtieth day of July, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-third.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON