

**Proclamation 7253 of November 19, 1999****National Family Week, 1999**

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

Families are the foundation of our individual lives and the life of our Nation. We turn to our families for the nurturing, guidance, and unconditional love that sustain us; from them we learn the values and convictions that sustain our society.

I am proud of my Administration's commitment to providing families with the resources they need to flourish. We have strengthened family incomes through the Child Tax Credit and by increasing the minimum wage and expanding the Earned Income Tax Credit, and today the yearly income of a typical American family is higher than it has ever been in our Nation's history. We have opened the doors of higher education by making student loans less expensive and easier to repay and by providing new tax credits and larger Pell Grant scholarships. We are also working to ensure that parents have access to quality and affordable child care for their children. These and other family-friendly policies, such as the Family and Medical Leave Act I signed into law in 1993, have helped parents to balance the demands of work and family and have brought increased financial security, expanded opportunity, and renewed hope for the future to families across America.

As we look to that future, we must not forget our rich history. We are fast approaching the dawn of a new millennium, and my Administration is marking this historic milestone with family-oriented programs that honor the past and imagine the future. Through "My History is America's History," a project sponsored by the White House Millennium Council and the National Endowment for the Humanities, we are encouraging our Nation's families to rediscover America's history by recording and preserving their own stories and passing them on to the next generation. Through remembered conversations, restored photographs, treasured letters, diaries, or other keepsakes, each family can recognize and preserve its part in America's rich and complex story and give a priceless gift to the future.

As we gather in our homes once again at this time of thanksgiving, let us recognize that the family members who surround us are among the most precious blessings in our lives, and let us pledge to keep their stories alive for the benefit of generations to come.

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 November 21 through November 27, 1999, as National Family Week. I call upon Federal, State, and local officials to honor American families with appropriate programs and activities, and I urge all the people of the United States to reaffirm their family ties and to share their family histories.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this nineteenth day of November, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and nine-

ty-nine, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fourth.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

**Proclamation 7254 of November 19, 1999**

**National Family Caregivers Week, 1999**

*By the President of the United States of America*

*A Proclamation*

During this season when we give thanks for the many blessings in our lives, let us take time to acknowledge the loving support of the millions of family caregivers across our country who provide for the needs of parents, spouses, and other loved ones who are no longer able to care for themselves. These remarkable individuals give their utmost to ensure that their relatives can remain in the comforting, familiar surroundings of their homes and communities.

Family caregivers embody the finest of American values. With compassion and a deep sense of responsibility, they devote their time and energy and often their own financial resources to care for family members in need. In many ways, family caregivers are mainstays in the provision of long-term care in our country. Today, more than 7 million Americans are informal caregivers who provide unpaid help to older persons, and 95 percent of older Americans with limitations on their daily living activities depend on family members for some portion of their care. That number will continue to grow during the next three decades as our elderly population doubles, with the aging of 76 million baby boomers. Recognizing the important role family caregivers play in the lives of so many, we must continue to strongly support efforts to provide them with the assistance, information, and encouragement they need to fulfill their vital responsibilities to older family members, and to those who are chronically ill or disabled.

Millions of lives have been enriched by the hard work and generosity of family caregivers; many older, ill, or disabled Americans enjoy a greater measure of comfort, dignity, and independence thanks to the loving care of family members. During National Family Caregivers Week, let us honor the many devoted men and women whose efforts do so much to strengthen the bonds of family and community in our Nation.

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 November 21 through November 27, 1999, as National Family Caregivers Week. I call upon all Americans to pay tribute to and acknowledge the contributions of caregivers to the quality of our national life.

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

WILLIAM J. CLINTON