Proclamation 7339 of September 14, 2000

National Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week, 2000

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Rooted in the segregated South of more than a century ago, Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) for decades were the sole source of higher education for African Americans. Generations of African American educators, physicians, lawyers, scientists, and other professionals found at HBCUs the knowledge, experience, and encouragement they needed to reach their full potential. Over the years, HBCUs have compiled an enviable record of achievement, educating almost forty percent of our Nation's black college graduates. Today, building on that tradition of excellence in education, HBCUs confer the majority of bachelor's degrees and advanced degrees awarded to black students in the physical sciences, mathematics, computer science, engineering, and education.

And HBCUs have accomplished this record in the face of daunting challenges—including limited financial resources and a relatively high percentage of disadvantaged students—without resorting to high tuition fees. The faculty and staff of HBCUs have created a nurturing environment for their students, set high academic standards and expectations, and served as inspiring role models for the young people around them. As a result, the dropout rate at HBCUs is much lower than for African American students at other educational institutions, and enrollment remains high.

In addition to educating many of our Nation's most distinguished African American professionals, HBCUs reach out to improve the quality of life in surrounding communities. Whether renovating housing, providing job training, instituting Head Start and senior citizen programs, mentoring elementary and high school students, or teaching nutrition, the students and faculty of HBCUs share their time, talents, and educational resources to make a positive difference in thousands of lives. Just as important, HBCUs serve as living repositories of African American history and heritage, preserving the words and artifacts of proud generations of African Americans and reminding us of the crucial part these men and women have played in the history of our Nation.

For well over a century, HBCUs have made their mark as vital institutions of higher learning. They have educated millions of young people, and today they maintain their lead role in preparing African Americans and students of all races for the challenges and opportunities of this new century.

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 September 17 through September 23, 2000, as National Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week. I call upon the people of the United States, including government officials, educators, and administrators, to observe this week with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities honoring America's Historically Black Colleges and Universities and their graduates.
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this fourteenth
day of September, in the year of our Lord two thousand, and of the
Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and
twenty-fifth.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

Proclamation 7340 of September 14, 2000

National POW/MIA Recognition Day, 2000

By the President of the United States of America
A Proclamation

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the onset of the Korean War
and the 25th anniversary of the end of the war in Vietnam. For many
Americans, these milestones bring difficult memories; for former pris­
oners of war and the families of those still missing in action, these an­
niversaries evoke particularly painful memories and emotions.

In both of these conflicts, hundreds of thousands of brave Americans
left their homes and families to defend freedom and democracy in the
face of communist aggression. Thousands lost their lives in battle, and
the fate of 10,000 Americans is still unknown—they are missing in ac­
ction. We know that many Americans held captive were subjected to
unspeakable horrors, but throughout maintained their honor, strong
faith in our Nation, and indomitable spirit.

There are approximately 50,000 courageous former POWs living among
us, including those held captive during World War II. Many still cope
with the physical and emotional effects of their captivity. We owe a
profound debt of gratitude to these quiet heroes who served our Nation
so well and sacrificed so much. And to the families of those still miss­
ing in action, we pledge our unwavering commitment to achieve the
fullest possible accounting for their loved-ones and to seek the recov­
ery, repatriation, and identification of the remains of those who have
died.

On September 15, 2000, 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 service members and our
unshakable resolve to ascertain their fate, will be flown over the White
House, the U.S. Capitol, the Departments of State, Defense, and Veter­
ans Affairs, the Selective Service System Headquarters, the Vietnam
Veterans Memorial, the Korean War Veterans Memorial, national ceme­
teries, and other locations across our country—a powerful reminder to
the world that we will keep faith with those who so faithfully served
America.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM J. CLINTON, President of the United
States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Con­
stitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim September
15, 2000, as National POW/MIA Recognition Day. I call upon all Amer­
cans to join me in remembering former American prisoners of war
who suffered the hardships of enemy captivity and those missing in ac­tion
whose fate is still undetermined. I call upon Federal, State, and