sions and important investments necessary to give them the oppor-
tunity to achieve their dreams.

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 October 8,
2000, as National Children's Day. I urge all Americans to express their
love and appreciation for children on this day and every day through­
out the year, and to work within their communities to nurture, love,
and teach all our children. I invite Federal officials, State and local
governments, and particularly all American families to join together in
observing this day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activi­
ties to honor our Nation's children.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this sixth day
of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand, and of the Independ­
ence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fifth.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

Proclamation 7357 of October 6, 2000

Columbus Day, 2000

By the President of the United States of America
A Proclamation

During this first year of the new century, the American people have
devoted time and thought to the people and events of our Nation's past
so that we might better prepare for the challenges of the future. While
Christopher Columbus' epic voyage took place almost three centuries
before the founding of our democracy, his journey helped shape our
national experience and offers important lessons as we chart our own
course for the 21st century.

One of the most valuable of those lessons is the importance of sustain­
ing our spirit of adventure, our willingness to explore new concepts
and new horizons. Columbus, after careful study and planning, rejected
the conventional thinking of his time, sailed for the open seas, and
succeeded in opening up a New World for the people of Europe. Like
Columbus, our founders rejected the familiar paths of the past and ven­
tured boldly to create a new form of government that has profoundly
shaped world history. Explorers, pioneers, inventors, artists, entre­
preneurs—all have found a refuge in America and a chance to achieve
their dreams.

Today we have other worlds to explore—from the deepest oceans to
the outermost reaches of space to the genetic code of human life. The
same adventurous spirit that propelled Columbus' explorations will en­
able us to challenge old assumptions, acquire new knowledge, and
broaden the horizons of humankind.

Columbus' story illustrates the importance of diversity. Columbus was
born and raised in Italy; he learned much of his seafaring knowledge
and experience from Portuguese sailors and navigators; and he put
those skills in service to the King and Queen of Spain, who funded his
explorations. By establishing a safe, reliable route between Europe and
the New World, Columbus opened the door for subsequent explorers from Spain, France, and England and for the millions of immigrants who would be welcomed by America in later centuries. But the encounters between Columbus and other European explorers and the native peoples of the Western Hemisphere also underscore what can happen when cultures clash and when we are unable to understand and respect people who are different from us.

While more than 500 years have passed since Christopher Columbus first sailed to these shores, the lessons of his voyage are still with us. Brave, determined, open to new ideas and new experiences, in many ways he foreshadowed the character of the American people who honor him today.

In tribute to Columbus' many achievements, the Congress, by joint resolution of April 30, 1934 (48 Stat. 657), and an Act of June 28, 1968 (82 Stat. 250), has requested the President to proclaim the second Monday in October of each year as "Columbus Day."

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM J. CLINTON, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim October 9, 2000, as Columbus Day. I call upon the people of the United States to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities. I also direct that the flag of the United States be displayed on all public buildings on the appointed day in honor of Christopher Columbus.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this sixth day of October, 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 7358 of October 6, 2000

Leif Erikson Day, 2000

By the President of the United States of America
A Proclamation

This year, as we mark the beginning of a new millennium, we also celebrate the 1000th anniversary of Europe's first contact with North America. At the turn of the last millennium, the legendary explorer Leif Erikson—son of Iceland, grandson of Norway—sailed across the cold waters of the Atlantic from his home in Greenland to the eastern coast of North America, completing the first documented voyage of Europeans to the New World.

In the ensuing centuries, millions of other men and women followed the lead of these brave Vikings—some seeking riches, some seeking adventure, all in search of a new and better life. Families from Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Sweden, and Norway would make their new homes in communities like New Sweden, Delaware; Oslo, Minnesota; and Denmark, Iowa, bringing with them a reverence for freedom and a deep love of democracy that stemmed from their own egalitarian traditions. More than 10 million Americans today can trace their roots to the Nordic countries, and their family ties, traditions, and values have